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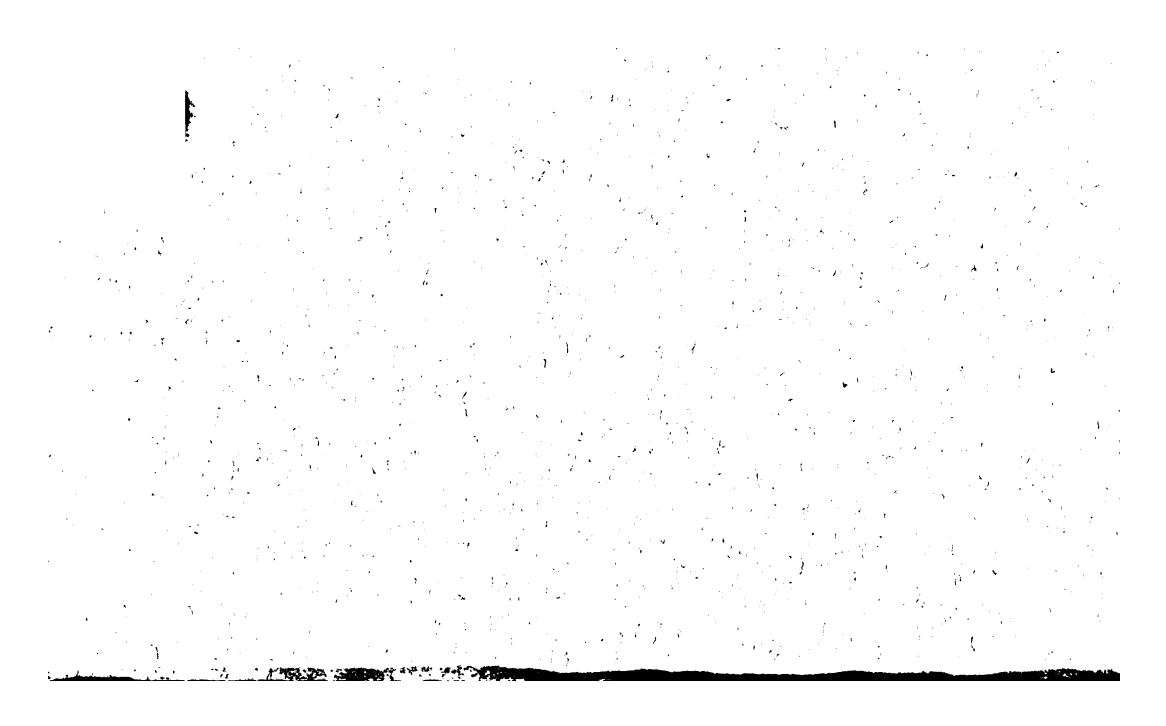

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# THE COTTAGER'S CALENDAR

OF

# GARDEN OPERATIONS.

BY

JOSEPH PAXTON.

*Reprinted from the "Gardeners' Chronicle and Agricultural Gazette," with additions.*

Sixty-third Thousand.

PUBLISHED
AT THE OFFICE OF THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE,
5, UPPER WELLINGTON STREET, COVENT GARDEN,
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THE

# COTTAGER'S CALENDAR.

*An Index will be found at the end.*

## JANUARY.

THE operations in this month will be but trifling, and the weather may prevent them altogether; but should it be open, refer to NOVEMBER, and endeavour to bring up arrears. The protection of choice plants will now require particular care; as the sun gains power, injury by frost becomes more serious. Any creeper on the cottage, as a Vine, Rose, Pyracantha, Clématis, or Honeysuckle, may be neatly trained. Water plants in pots sparingly, and never at the decline of day.

### VEGETABLES.*

BEANS†.—If none were sown in autumn, or have perished, some should now be sown, as recommended in November, for transplanting in March. Early Lisbon, Johnson's Wonderful, and Hangdown are the best.

CABBAGE.—Towards the end of the month, if the weather is open and mild, vacancies in the autumn-planted may be made up; and a few of the largest plants of Early York set one foot apart, for earliest use.

PEAS.—A sowing of double-blossomed Frame, Warner's Early Emperor, or Early Charlton, may be made on a sheltered border, which should have been ridged crosswise; draw the drills within two inches of the bottom, on the warmest side of the ridge; this keeps the seed drier than if sown in the bottom. The seeds for this early crop should be sown thick. If the whole of the border is intended for Peas, a yard between each row will be room enough; but if it is purposed to crop between them with early Potatoes, Celery, Cauliflower, or dwarf Kidney-Beans, which is the better plan, then double the distance may be left between the rows. It used formerly to be the plan, even in gentlemen's gardens, to sow Peas in a plot by themselves, as is now too often the case in small ones; this should never be done, as experience has taught that two rows at a good distance apart will yield as much as three near together, besides the seed saved, and ground gained, by being enabled,

* For a list of select Vegetables, see p. 54.

† For a list of the best Beans, see "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," for 1842, p. 236.

to crop close to them; and their place can always be occupied the moment they come off. Defer sowing if the weather is not favourable.

### FLOWERS*.

Should any bulbs, as Narcissus, Anemones, or Tulips, remain unplanted, choose the first interval of open weather to get them in, planting the dwarfest nearest the walk; those bulbs planted in October will probably be showing through the ground; the more choice sorts should be protected from severe frosts and heavy rains, to ensure good bloom; a layer of Fern or Spruce branches will be found suitable. The digging of flower-borders containing bulbs, if not completed early last month, had better be deferred until they show through the ground; it can then be done more safely. In watering Auriculas†, take care that none enters the heart of the plant. Carnations, Stocks, and other similar plants contained in the pit, must receive the same treatment as recommended in December.

## FEBRUARY.

If frost or snow has prevented the operations recommended last month from being completed, take advantage of the earliest opportunity to make up the delay. No vacant ground should be left undug until this time; yet that which produced the main crop of Potatoes is too often seen in cottage-gardens, throughout the winter, in the same weedy, rough state as left when the crop was taken off; this ought never to be the case; should the season be too far advanced to crop it with winter greens, dig or ridge it immediately. A great deal more harm will be done than a short delay will occasion if the ground is trod or worked when in a wet state; and short delays from weather are always readily made up by taking advantage of the first favourable interval after. If pruning has been deferred, it should be finished now; the Grape-vine especially should not be delayed if it was not cut in the autumn: also any transplanting, for which see NOVEMBER. It will be well to look at next month, which is, perhaps, the most important one, that every preparation may be made beforehand. Creepers on the cottage should not be delayed pruning and training neatly; drooping flowered plants should be trained horizontally; Roses and others upright, at regular distances, and spurred in.

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* For select list of Flowers, see p. 60.

† For a description of the properties of the Auricula, see "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1841, pp. 228, 396. 1845, pp. 256, 272.

## VEGETABLES.

BEANS.—A main sowing may be made this month of the Early Long-pod, in drills three inches deep and two feet and a half apart; but, as with Peas, detached rows, a good distance from each other, and cropped between, are the best.

CABBAGE.—The August-sown, which were pricked out, may now be finally planted, and the vacancies of the autumn-set should be made good, if not previously done.

CHIVES may be divided for increase. This useful little plant will grow in any soil or situation, and does well planted as an edging to a back walk; it may be used for all purposes for which Onions are, early in spring, when they cannot be had.

ONIONS may now be planted for seed; draw a drill about three inches deep for them, and set them one foot apart.

PEAS.—If not put in, sow as recommended last month, the first favourable opportunity; those sown now will not be much later than the same kinds sown in November, and exceed them in point of crop. Draw the drills wide at the bottom, and spread the seed regularly, which is better than huddling them together in narrow drills; this should be particularly attended to in sowing Marrowfats and other branching kinds, which are usually sown too thick.

RADISHES.—Choose a dry and sheltered situation for a sowing of early Radishes; they must be covered up from severe weather, for which Fern is the best material, but any light litter will do; they must be uncovered at every favourable opportunity. The Scarlet Short-top is the best kind to put in now, and a few Bath or Green Egyptian Cos Lettuces may be sown at the same time.

RHUBARB AND SEA-KALE may have an increase of covering now, to cause their early growth.—See MARCH, p. 9.

## FRUIT*.

If new plantations of Strawberries were not made in July or August, make them now; the old beds should be cleaned, and have a top-dressing of fresh soil and dung mixed; if in rows, they should be dug between, and a little of the fresh soil spread over the plants. For a cottage-garden, Keen's Seedlings and British Queens, in four-feet beds, top-dressed as above, and renewed every three years, will be found the most productive. Prune and tie Raspberries†, and make fresh plantations.

## FLOWERS.

In favourable weather, edgings of various kinds may be planted, as Box, Thrift, Daisies, Pinks, Polyanthus‡, and London Pride. Auriculas, Carnations§, and other plants, should have free exposure in mild weather. Ranunculus roots plant in mild weather, in rich loamy soil; draw neat drills about two inches deep (if planted in a bed) and five inches apart; choose the roots for having full, prominent buds, in preference to size; choose the first week in the month, if possible; and as in their early state of growth they

* For select list of Fruit Trees, see p. 56.

† An account of a neat mode of training the Raspberry will be found in the "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1842, p. 836.

‡ For a description of the properties of the Polyanthus, see "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1841, p. 292. Select list of 1844, p. 572. 1845, p. 289.

§ For list of good Carnations, see "*Gard. Chron.*," 1841, p. 585.

are extremely susceptible of frost, some covering should be given if it occur.

Roses.—Chinese kinds, and those of robust growth, should now be pruned; but do not shorten strong-growing varieties much, except those shoots intended to produce wood for next season. Roses may also be planted, and the soil for them cannot be too rich*.

Thorn or Privet hedges may be cut.

## MARCH.

This most important month for getting in main crops of several kinds is proverbial for boisterous weather, but with fine intervals, of which advantage must be taken, for upon Onions, Carrots, and Parsnips being sown whilst the ground is in a good state, and the weather favourable, a great deal of their after success depends. We will presume that the soil has been prepared; but there yet remains a subject not spoken of, which is equally important in every garden—namely, a proper rotation of crops; for although the same plot may produce for several successive years good crops of Onions, for instance, by being well manured, it is, notwithstanding, a bad practice; and the plan of successive planting of many other kinds upon one piece of ground will ultimately so exhaust it, that no amount of manuring will again fit it for the same plant until a system of rotation cropping has been followed. It is unnecessary here to enter into the reasons for this, and we therefore give the best general rule for avoiding this sterility. After early Potatoes any of the Cabbage tribe may be planted; all tap-rooted vegetables, as Carrots and Parsneps, for which it is wrong to manure at the time of sowing, should be succeeded by dissimilar kinds which require dung at the time of planting, as Celery, Potatoes, and the Cabbage tribe. Let this be thought of now, that after arrangements may not compel you to occupy the same piece with a similar crop this year as the last. Where the ground has been ridged, the great advantage of the practice over flat digging will now be seen by the facility with which it is levelled in a fine pulverised state, enabling you to sow it immediately whenever a short period of fine weather may happen, whilst soil of a similar texture dug flat will be quite wet and unfit for working.

* A list of good varieties of Roses will be found in the "*Gardeners Chronicle*," p. 1841, p. 581. 1843, p. 541.

## VEGETABLES.

**Beans.**—The first favourable weather, the plants from the autumn-sown beds may be transplanted in rows, across a warm border, about two feet apart; but if it is intended to crop between them, which is the best plan, with early Cauliflower or Celery, they should then be set at greater distances.

**Broccoli** *.—The early purple sprouting and dwarf late purple may be sown in the last week of the month; these are the most profitable kinds, as they yield an abundance of sprouts, and being of dwarf growth may be planted close; otherwise Broccoli is not a profitable crop for small gardens, the late kinds occupying the ground twelve months, besides being great impoverishers. The early purple sprouting sown now, will come into use about Michaelmas, and the dwarf late purple in the March following, when they are valuable.

**Cabbage.**—In the first or second week, sow on a warm border a few for summer and autumn supply; they must be protected whilst young if severe weather occur; either Sprotsbro', Fulham, Early Brompton, or Large York will be found suitable kinds; water the seed-beds if necessary. A few Red Dutch may be sown at the same time if those put in in autumn have failed.

**Carrots.**—The first open weather, a few Early Horn may be sown in a warm situation for use before the main crop is ready; at the latter end of the month the main crop should be sown; a calm day must be chosen for the purpose, and the seed be previously separated by being rubbed between the hands with sand, dry soil, or ashes. The land should have been well prepared in autumn at least one foot and a half deep; for strong soil, the scrapings of roads, when dry, will be found an excellent dressing; if it is well incorporated in digging, it will keep the earth open and enrich it also; this may be done just previously to sowing, but manure should never be added at that time. The ground intended for Carrots and other tap-rooted vegetables should be prepared in the autumn, as the addition of fresh dung now would encourage the roots to fork, and become cankered; shallow drills an inch deep, and nine inches apart, are preferable to broadcast sowing, as the seeds are difficult to rake in, and the earth for covering the seed should be broken very fine; sowing in drills admits of the hoe being used much more expeditiously, besides a more regularly-disposed crop and a saving of seed; old roots may now be planted to produce seeds.

**Cauliflower.**—Sow in a warm situation for the summer supply to succeed the August-sown; choose a piece of the lightest and richest ground for this purpose; cover the seed lightly and evenly, and do not sow thick. In the last week the autumn-raised plants should be planted out in rich ground and attended to with water if necessary.

**Celery.**—Where there is a desire to have early or large Celery for exhibition, and plants cannot be procured from some large garden, in the absence of a dung-bed, sow seed in a shallow box filled with rich soil, and cover it lightly with mould; it may be either protected in the Cucumber-pit in April, or with hoops and a mat, or taken into the house at night, exposing it in fine weather. The best sorts are Godwin's Superb Red, and Seymour's Superb White.

**Horse-Radish.**—To grow fine roots, plant about two inches of the crowns in a deep trench, and cover them with sifted coal-ashes, or drop the sets into deep holes made with a large dibble, and fill them up with light earth; choose any out-of-the-way situation, as

* An extensive list of varieties of Broccoli will be found in the "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1842, p. 300.

it is rather an unsightly plant, and not easily eradicated except by constant hoeing over for a season.

LEEKS.—Sow the broad-leaved London in a warm situation the first favourable opportunity. The seed should be scattered thinly over a small bed, and covered lightly from the alley, beating it in with the head of the rake when levelling the surface.

LETTUCE.—A few seeds may be scattered thinly amongst the Onions and Carrots, or on a small bed by themselves; the Green or White Cos are the best; and if Cabbage Lettuce is desired, the Imperial or Grand Admiral may be sown: they must be protected from birds. Endeavour to obtain a few Cos Lettuce plants which have been wintered in frames to set now in a warm rich plot.

MINT.—New plantations may be made by drawing up the young shoots with roots attached when two or three inches long, and planting them with a dibber in rows six inches apart, and four inches from plant to plant.

ONIONS should be sown about the middle of the month, or before, if the weather permits; the ground should have been bastard-trenched and ridged in autumn, and manured at the same time; therefore nothing but levelling down the ridges will be necessary now. For light soil, clay, and pig or cow dung mixed, will be found the best dressing; a piece of the best ground in the garden should always be devoted to Onions. Sowing in drills is preferable to broadcast, as it ensures a more regular crop, which is easier kept clean. After the ground has been levelled, mark it off in beds four feet and a half wide, with fourteen-inch alleys; then draw drills an inch deep along the beds about six or eight inches apart, sow the seed immediately, and after covering tread it in regularly; if the ground should be in such a state as not to admit this without binding the surface, it will be hardly prudent to sow; but if it has been ridged, this will scarcely happen. After the plants are fairly above-ground, nothing is so beneficial to their well-doing as having the soil about them frequently stirred, and being kept free from weeds. The best kind is the new white Globe—a good keeper, and being of a globular shape, a greater weight is produced upon the same space than by any other kind.

PARSLEY should be sown, the first favourable opportunity—the seed usually takes six or seven weeks before it makes its appearance above-ground; it may be sown as an edging to the walks, or on a border. When put in for an edging, the drills should be drawn with great care and regularity about an inch deep, and three from the edge of the walk; if in a plot, six or eight inches apart. In covering let the soil be well broken. When the plants are full-grown, any bearing uncurled leaves should be drawn out, and as soon as the earliest leaves begin to turn yellow a portion may be cut over close to the ground in succession; this will cause the plants to produce finer leaves, and stand the winter better.

PARSNEPS *.—These should be sown at the same time and on an adjoining piece to the Carrots, as they require similar treatment; the drills for these should be about one and a half inch deep, and one foot apart; they are an extremely nutritious and profitable crop, and should therefore be grown largely by every cottager; boiled and eaten with salt fish or meat in the spring, they are delicious, and cows fed with them yield an abundance of milk; in sowing them, three or four seeds may be dropt in the drills, six or eight inches apart. The Hollow Crown Parsnep is the best.

* A good method for keeping Parsneps is described in the "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1841, p. 694.

PEAS.—A succession may be sown of Dwarf Blue Imperial or Blue Prussian—they both grow about three feet high, and no better or more prolific Peas can be sown at this season. Earth up and stick the early kinds as soon as they are high enough; this cannot be done too soon at this season, as protection is required. In drawing drills, either make them wide at the bottom, or draw double drills, and sow thinly; the rows should range north and south if possible.

POTATOES.—This is by far the most important plant we have to speak of: and although the season for the main crops has not arrived, there needs no excuse for introducing the subject, that some of the features in its successful culture may be impressed on the mind. Various interesting experiments have been made upon the manner of growing this root, which we might detail, but we will content ourselves in this instance with giving the modes of treatment which have proved the best. The time of planting depends a good deal upon the locality and nature of the soil; and although they have succeeded well from the end of February to the same time in June, yet either very early or late planting ought to be avoided: we shall, however, detail a method which in light soil and warm situations will amply repay the trouble either for home consumption, or with a view to profit—this plan is practised in Lancashire, Devonshire, and many parts of Ireland, and is termed the "lazy-bed" planting; it is performed as follows:—Mark out the ground, four feet and a half for the beds, and two feet for the alleys; then remove about four inches off the surface of the beds into the alleys, afterwards digging the beds; and if the soil is not in good heart, manure must be added under the Potatoes if at all heavy, but if very light place it above them. By putting manure under early Potatoes on strong soil, it acts as drainage. The sets, which should be good-sized Potatoes of the Ash-leaved Kidney, Early Frame, Fox's Seedling, or any other dwarf-growing early kind, must then be planted about eight inches apart all over the surface, placing them carefully with their crown-eyes upwards; they will then rise stronger than if laid on their sides, as the crown-eyes of a Potatoe bear the same reference to those at the sides, as the terminal buds of trees do to the lower ones; should the Potatoes be so large as to make two good sets, keep the crown separate and plant each by themselves, and they will form a succession. Very small Potatoes should not be used for planting at this, or indeed any season, for reasons which shall be explained hereafter. As the plants appear upon the surface, a little soil must be added to keep off frost; in very small gardens this plan may be adopted with good success at a later period with dwarf-growing kinds.

RADISH.—Some seed of the Scarlet Short-top and Turnip-rooted kinds may be scattered with the main crops of Carrots, &c.; they will be fit for use before the crops can be damaged by them; but if room is no object, sow them by themselves, and cover as before.

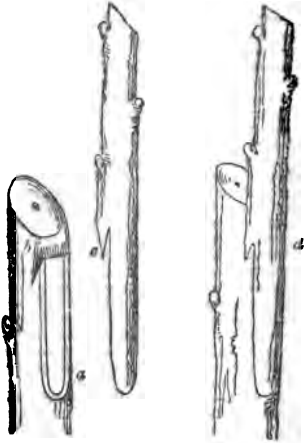
RHUBARB.—This valuable plant should occupy a corner in every garden, however limited; and the cottager will find it useful and wholesome for himself and children, from its cooling properties. Independent of the cheap pies and tarts which are made of the stalks, they may be boiled and eaten with bread; by blanching the stalks, which is readily done, they are not only improved in flavour and come to perfection earlier, but one-half the quantity only of sugar is required. To accomplish this, it is but necessary to exclude the light; a large flower-pot or old butter-firkin will do this, or a few hazel-rods or rails covered with fern or straw, or any similar means as circumstances may dictate. If the crowns have been mulched during winter, they will be forwarded.

SPINACH may be sown between Peas or Beans, or by itself, but is not a crop to be recommended at this season in a cottage-garden, being neither nourishing as food, nor durable as a crop.

TURNIPS.—In warm situations a few of the Six Weeks Turnip may be sown upon a south border with a view to profit, as they are usually at this season very scarce; the border should be dug in a sloping form, and the plants attended to regularly with water.

## FRUIT.

About the middle of the month, a little earlier or later, according to the season, is the proper time to commence grafting Apples, Pears, Plums, or Cherries; the grafts should have been taken off a month previous, as grafting always succeeds best when the stock is in a greater state of activity than the scion. We will endeavour to describe the operation; but seeing it once performed would teach it better. Cut over the stocks at the points where it seems the most desirable to fix the graft (see figure), then with a sharp knife make a smooth cut (*a*) upwards, of the same width as the diameter of the scion, and about an inch and a half long, just penetrating to the wood; then make a slit downwards from the top across the cut, a quarter of an inch deep (*b*); cut the scion about four inches long, and cut the lower end obliquely at one cut, to fit that made in the stock, making a similar slit at *c* as that in the stock; then fix the two together, making one or both the inner edges fit neatly, according to the size of the branch grafted (*d*). Nothing more remains to be done but to tie them together securely without shifting their position with bast or tape, and cover the union with adhesive clay which has been well beaten up with some short hay, to prevent its cracking; if a little Moss is tied over the clay, and kept damp, it will assist the union. There are many different methods of grafting, but this is the one most practised, and all are on the same principle.




Any wall-trees or dwarf Pears coming into blossom may be protected from frost with branches of Spruce Fir or fronds of Fern tied amongst the shoots.

Hoe about the stems of Gooseberries and Currants.

## FLOWERS.

ANNUALS.—Towards the end of the month, in light soils, sow a few of the hardiest annuals; also thin out and plant some of the

autumn-sown ones. Sow in small patches, and cover with a little dry soil; if a garden-pot is turned over the patch, it will protect the seeds from birds or frost; before sowing, ascertain their individual heights and colour, and attend to what is said upon this subject at the head of the list of annuals.

ANEMONES.—If any roots were left over the autumn-planting, they may be put in now for succession.

AURICULAS.—As soon as the plants throw up their trusses of bloom, pinch them all off but the strongest one; and if any plant appears to require top-dressing or potting, it should be done immediately; give them free exposure during the day, and allow them the benefit of any gentle rains towards the end of the month; but above all things, guard against frost, for if the buds become in the least injured, they will not come up level in the truss; when the buds are formed, thin out the smallest or middle ones, leaving only as many as can expand without being crowded. Sow seeds of Auriculas and Polyanthus in shallow pans or boxes, and press them down only with a piece of flat board, sprinkling a little sand over them; place them under an east aspect, and protect them from heavy rains.

BORAGE.—Sow in the neighbourhood of Bees, for which no plant is more valuable; it does not require transplanting.

CARNATIONS.—Last year's layers should, towards the end of the month, be either planted out in the borders or in a bed, to flower; many growers pot them in large pots and flower them upon a stage: they delight in rich soil, composed of loam, dung, and sand.

CHINESE CHRYSANTHEMUMS may now be divided and potted in small pots, or planted out on a rich border, and trained, taking them up carefully, and potting them, during wet weather, for flowering in August.

RANUNCULUS.—As early as the weather will permit, Ranunculuses should be planted; the soil should be loamy, and prepared in November, by being loosened 18 inches deep, and having a good dressing of cow-dung. The bed should not be disturbed now, except in levelling. Plant the roots an inch and a half deep, choosing them for their prominent buds, in preference to size. Set them in rows six inches apart, and four inches asunder in the row.

Flower-borders containing hardy bulbs should be dressed as soon as they make their appearance above-ground; if done before, there is danger of injuring them.

## APRIL.

IT often happens for want of opportunity, or from unfavourable weather, many of the operations recommended last month remain undone the beginning of this, but they must no longer be delayed. This is a month of shower and sunshine, the one soon chasing the other away; and all vegetation is making rapid progress, therefore every spare moment may and should be profitably employed; weeds, especially if neglected, will speedily flower and shed their seeds, ensuring a numerous offspring, that will take years to eradicate. As a matter of first importance, then, never allow weeds to flower, or let the hoe, during showery weather, remain idle, as it will not only destroy weeds, but encourage a rapid growth of the crops; and insects, like weeds, may be rendered comparatively

scarce by diligence, and adopting prompt measures for their destruction the moment they are detected; for, like them, if neglected they multiply beyond credibility. All planting in the kitchen-garden in spring and summer should be done in drills, because the plants are more effectually watered; and the first hoeing, by filling in the drills, acts as an earthing-up also. Some frosty nights usually occur, the effects of which on fruit-blossoms, young seedlings, and early growths of even hardy plants, must be carefully guarded against; as the fluids of plants are now active, a slight frost is capable of doing more mischief than a severe one in winter, when the plants are dormant.

## VEGETABLES.

BEANS.—When the last-sown show their first perfect leaves, to insure a regular succession, some more should be sown in an open situation. Early Longpod and Taylor's Windsor are the most prolific kinds: let the rows range north and south if possible, and do not sow together in a plot, but in detached rows, and crop between—the produce will be nearly double; and the space they occupy can be planted with Colewort or other greens in July or August.

BEET.—In the first or second week some Red Beet may be sown, upon ground prepared as recommended for Carrots, at pages 7 and 43, in shallow drills, fifteen inches apart; three or four seeds should be dropped together in the drills at intervals of about eight inches, when the plants have acquired three or four leaves, these patches must be thinned to one plant, retaining that which is strongest and of the darkest colour; little more care is necessary in their culture, except keeping them free from weeds, and loosening the surface soil about them occasionally, until they are ready for housing in October or November. In lifting them great care must be taken not to injure the roots, or to dress off the crown leaves too closely; when dry store them away like carrots in dry soil or sand. This is a most delicious root; it is usually eaten when boiled, to cold mutton, mixed with other salad herbs, but it is excellent with any cold meat, or as a pickle; in preparing the root for boiling it must not be trimmed, as it loses much of its fine colour when cut in the process of boiling, therefore washing perfectly clean is all the preparation required previous to cooking.

BORECOLE, OR SCOTCH GREENS.—This valuable and hardy vegetable should be sown about the second week, if two sowings are made; but, generally speaking, for small gardens one will be found sufficient. If the smallest plants are pricked out to strengthen in some open spot about three inches apart, they will make stout plants, and by being planted out later will form a succession. The sowing may be made in any vacant part of the garden, but if sown rather thin in an open situation they will rise stronger.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS.—This deservedly-esteemed vegetable is seldom seen in cottage gardens, although no kind of greens merits more extensive cultivation, it being very hardy and productive, and when cooked is extremely delicate and wholesome. It should be sown at the same time and in the same manner as Borecole.

CABBAGE.—The seed-beds of last month must be watered in dry weather. Hoe between, or earth-up, those advancing.

CELERY.—The main crop should now be sown in a warm situation and light rich soil; the seed being small, should be covered lightly with well-broken earth: do not sow it very thick, or the plants will

rise feebly. The bed should receive some slight protection from heavy rains or cold nights; if a hand-glass is possessed, it may be placed over it for a short time. The Manchester Red and Solid White are the best kinds; the Red is the largest and most hardy one. Never cover these seeds with soil, but gently press them down with the hand, a board, or back of a spade, and keep well watered with a rose watering-pot.

CRESS AND MUSTARD may now be sown under a south wall or fence.

CUCUMBERS.—To grow this vegetable, and for other purposes which shall be mentioned, we would recommend the following proceeding in some dry sheltered corner of the garden facing the south. To form a pit: mark out a suitable spot six feet wide, of any required length, and drive down stout stakes at the corners; then procure a quantity of grass sods cut square about three inches thick, and build with them a back wall two feet three inches high, and a front one fifteen inches: the walls may be a foot or fifteen inches thick to resist frost in winter. The stakes should be driven to the exact height of the walls on the inside; and when finished, a strip of wood may be nailed along their tops to make a level surface for the lights to rest upon: these must be formed by nailing four light pieces of wood together, the side pieces six feet six inches long, and the end ones three feet six inches. These frames should be crossed with twine to support a covering of oiled calico or paper, as a substitute for glass. If turves cannot readily be obtained, a number of stakes may be driven down, and wattled with rods, or lined inside with slabs, and a wall of earth, as above, built against these. This simple erection may be speedily made by any person, and will prove of great use. The surface surrounding the pit should be somewhat lower than the interior, to preserve it dry. In this homely pit any kind of Cucumber may be grown during summer. If a plant or two can be obtained of a size fit to plant out early in May, it will save some trouble; otherwise, about the middle of this month, throw into one corner of the pit two or three barrow-loads of dung, which will communicate a little warmth; then sow in a pot, half filled with light rich soil, the required number of seeds of the Southgate or long prickly Cucumber, covering them lightly, and place over the mouth of the pot a piece of flat glass, setting the pot upon the dung. When the plants are developing the first rough leaf, they may be potted off two or three in a pot, replacing them on the dung, and keeping the lights close for a day or two. As soon as they have perfected the first rough leaf, stop them—that is, pinch off their top close to that leaf; and prepare for planting them out in a few days after, by laying some long litter or turfy soil, about three inches thick, as drainage; then along the centre of the pit form a ridge of rich light soil one foot thick, and plant a pot of plants under each light. The reason for first forming a ridge of soil along the centre, is to allow frequent earthings to the plants as their roots appear on the surface, by which means they grow faster than when planted at first in a great body of soil. All that will be required after, besides these earthings, is a regular supply of air, removing the lights wholly the greater part of the day, after the end of May,—the stopping and training a certain number of bearing shoots, removing all that are weak or seem crowded, and pegging out the remainder without confusion. Male flowers, and leaves, when too numerous, must be thinned, and regular supplies of rain or soft water given to the plants. By these means abundance of Cucumbers may be had until late in the season. By some they are considered a delicacy, but it should be remembered that they are attended with a good deal of trouble, and afford little nutriment: the pit, however, should be built.

LETTUCE.—A succession of these should always be kept by sowing a few at a time once a month, as they are cooling in summer, and excellent for allaying thirst. Sow the same kinds as recommended last month, and never neglect watering them whenever dry weather occurs: this rule holds good for all plants used as salading, and if neglected they lose their crispness and flavour.

ONIONS.—If the main crop was not got in last month, it must not be delayed after the beginning of this, or if sown last they will be up this, and will probably require hand-weeding, accompanied with careful hoeing after a shower.

PEAS.—When a succession is required without intervals, a fresh sowing should be made when the last-sown are fairly through the ground. In large gardens it is the practice to sow, as above, two kinds at one time which will follow each other; but this is not necessary in small ones: neither do we recommend tall sorts, on account of the space they require. No better kinds than those recommended for last month can be; but Knight's Marrows, especially the dwarf green, are delicious Peas, and very prolific. They may be sown thinner than other sorts, in double drills; being robust growers, they require stout sticks. The dwarf sorts grow from three to four feet high, and the tall kind from five to six.

POTATOES.—The second early crop should be planted the first fortnight, and the main crop in the latter end of the month. It is nearly useless to mention any particular kinds, as everybody has his favourite varieties; but for small gardens those producing the dwarfest haulm should be chosen for the second crop, if the lazy-bed plan spoken of last month has been adopted. Choose good-sized, well-ripened Potatoes, and lay them in a warm, dry place until the eyes sprout a little: when they have done this, cut them carefully, and, as recommended before, the crown sets may be kept and planted by themselves; as they contain the strongest and best-matured eyes, they always rise stronger and more regular than those from the sides; sets cut from large tubers, each containing one good strong eye, have by numerous experiments been proved superior to either whole small Potatoes, or sets containing several smaller eyes; but we will give Dr. Lindley's own words for the reason of this, which we are sure will convince every one capable of thinking. "Large tubers cut into sets, each containing a single eye, are preferable to small Potatoes with the eyes cut out excepting one, even supposing the weight to be the same in both cases. Here lies the difference; the large Potato has a large eye or bud, which remains undiminished in the section composing the set; on the contrary, the small Potato has a small eye or bud, from which, in the first instance, only a weakly shoot proceeds; whereas the other starts vigorously, producing early an extensive breadth of foliage, supported on a stem capable of bearing it up in the light, and hence producing better tubers than either one weak stem or a multitude of such." The extra weight or quantity of Potatoes required for sets, if large ones are used, bears but a small proportion to the increase and quality of produce which the same space would yield if planted with weaker sets; dry weather must be chosen for planting, also a dry situation and light soil, in preference to heavy land. In planting, open good wide drills with the spade, from 18 inches to two feet apart, according to the height the kinds grow; six inches wider apart than the height the tops attain may be taken as a guide. The drills must be from three to four inches deep, along the bottom of which place the sets about eight inches apart, with the eye upwards; this is of more importance than many suppose, the plants rising then stronger

and quicker than when the sets are reversed. If the land requires dung—which it usually does unless the soil is fresh maiden loam, the sets had better have some light mixture spread over them, as decayed tree-leaves, littery dung, with ashes, or any like material which will act as drainage; it should at all times be of an open nature; fresh horse, cow, or pig dung is improper, but may be used when well rotted and mixed with either of the above-named open materials. By planting with dung, the ground in the autumn will be found in a fine pulverised state for receiving the succeeding crop. Potatoes for seed should never be kept in a great bulk together, as the fermentation, or sweating, which they undergo, often destroys their vegetating power—and to this we have traced the failure of many crops: they should be placed where they can be frequently turned, to prevent their early growth and consequent exhaustion. For late planting observe the same rules; and choose kinds which do not grow very tall or produce abundance of flowers. A good method of planting to prevent the ground from being trod is to dig them in as follows:—Take out a trench, as for digging, and having a stick at each side of the piece of the exact length the rows are to be apart to measure with, when the trench is brought parallel to these sticks a line must be stretched between them, and the drill formed; then plant the sets and cover them with dung; after which shift the two sticks their length backwards and dig on to them as before, covering the planted row carefully as you proceed; this will be found, especially in strong soils, worthy of adoption, as the ground is left neat and level, and as loose as possible.

RADISHES.—A succession of Short-top, Salmon, or Turnip-rooted kinds should now be sown in a moist situation, which should always be chosen for the summer crops of saladings, as it saves watering, and renders them naturally more crisp and juicy. Radishes sown on a dry soil soon become woody and hot.

RHUBARB.—Seed for young plants should now be thinly sown, in drills, where they are to stand until autumn. Choose a light, rich spot of ground, and draw shallow drills a foot or 18 inches apart, and drop in the seeds in patches six inches from each other. It is a good plan to raise young plants for planting in boxes, to be placed in a warm cellar, or a closet, where they will receive moderate warmth and no light; by some contrivance of this sort blanched stalks may be obtained, when they are considered a luxury even by the great.

SAVOYS.—The Dwarf Green Savoy should be sown and treated in the same manner as Borecole or Brussels Sprouts. The merits of Savoys are well known; their hardiness, ease of culture, and great produce are sufficient to recommend them in every family.

SEA-KALE.—We seldom or never see this vegetable in a cottage-garden; why it should be excluded we do not know, unless its being considered one of the luxuries of large gardens should unfit it for humbler ones. It is not only extremely wholesome, nutritious, and of easy culture, but, planted on a north border, which is little esteemed for other crops, it comes into use when vegetables of all kinds are usually scarce, and is always a saleable commodity if grown as a source of profit. It may be raised by sowing seed early in the month, or by slips of the root, or small crowns planted in February or early in March. For seeds, draw drills two inches deep, in light, rich soil, and let the seed be dropped about three inches apart in the rows, which should be one foot wide; seedlings are preferable to root-slips. The first season they will only require to be kept free from weeds, and in the following spring they should be planted out

permanently; the ground for them should be well manured, and broken up about 18 inches deep, by being bastard-trenched; plant in patches three together, about six inches apart, in the form of a triangle, and two feet from patch to patch. After some of the seedlings have been planted out in rows to strengthen, they may be placed thick in large pots or boxes, in November, and treated as recommended for Rhubarb, any time during winter, or early in spring. To blanch in the open ground, the buds or crowns must be covered with clear sand about two inches thick, and then have placed over them large pots inverted, old boxes or hampers, or any other available thing which will prevent them being broken when they are covered with long dung, fern, or leaves, sufficiently thick to exclude frost; or they may be planted one foot apart, and covered with sawdust, old tanners' bark, or sand one foot thick above their crowns, and allowed to grow to the top at their natural season; but this is not so good as the other method for blanching. The covering up with long dung, &c., is only necessary when it is desired to have it early; otherwise, in its natural season, the exclusion of light is only necessary. The plants will last many years. Sea-kale is an excellent natural sweetener of the blood in spring, and may render the use of medicine or doctors' visits unnecessary.

Slips of Sage, Thyme, Rue, Hyssop, Lavender, and other herbs, may be planted in a shady place.

## FRUIT.

Remove foreright or ill-placed shoots from any trained trees; grafting may still be performed early in the month. Clear fruit-trees and bushes from suckers, and keep the ground about them frequently loosened by the hoe; destroy slugs and snails, likewise caterpillars, as soon as they appear. This is a proper season to layer vines, which is readily done by loosening a convenient and healthy shoot, and making a slit half through the shoot under the eye which it is intended should be the bottom of the future plant, upwards of two or three inches; then bend it into a pot or in the ground, securing it there with a hooked peg, and tying it upright to a stake to prevent its being broken; it will be well rooted by November, when it may be permanently transplanted.

## FLOWERS.

ANNUALS.—The main sowing of hardy kinds should be made this month as directed in March. The half-hardy kinds may be put in at the end of the month in the same manner as the hardy ones.

AURICULAS when in flower should be protected from the sun or rains, but allow them all the air possible; they should receive regular supplies of water; if manure-water is given alternately, they will be much benefited; but never water them over the leaves. Polyanthuses in pots may be treated in a similar manner.

BIENNIALS, as Wallflowers, Brompton and Giant Stocks, Hollyhocks, Campanulas, Sweet Williams, &c., should be planted out early in the month, if not done in autumn; and towards the end the same kinds may be sown to procure them strong for another season.

CUTTINGS of Fuchsias, Heliotropes, Salvias, Verbenas, Petunias, &c., may be planted in pots half filled with soil, and plunged in a warm situation, placing over the pot a flat piece of glass to exclude air, or the pot may be placed in the window of a dwelling-room; many plants rather difficult to root may be struck this way, the sides of the pots acting as a sufficient shade: the piece of glass should be

wiped or occasionally turned during damp weather; the earliest shoots of China Roses taken off close to the old wood when about four inches long and treated thus, will make blooming plants by autumn.

DAHLIAS.—The old roots should be started to grow before dividing or planting them; they may be placed in a box of light soil or decayed leaves, and kept moist, setting them out in the sun during the day, and taking them in, or effectually securing them from frost at night, by some Willows and a covering of Ferns. As soon as the shoots are three or four inches long, they may all except one be taken off close to the old tuber, and struck either as recommended for other cuttings, or in phials of water, or in damp moss; it is important to preserve the lowermost eyes in plants intended to store away for another season, although cuttings taken off higher up the stem will make equally good flowering plants for the present year. It is unnecessary to strike cuttings if the roots can be divided into as many pieces, each containing an eye, as there are plants required; the buds should be allowed to shoot an inch or two before they are divided; by large cultivators artificial heat is usually employed to start the Dahlia earlier in the year, but plants started towards the end of this month under a south wall or in a box, as above, will make stronger and shorter jointed growths, and usually flower the best.

CARNATIONS.—Planting out or potting in large pots must not be delayed.

MIGNONETTE should be sown in the open border and in pots or boxes for flowering in the window in July; let the soil be mixed with one-half well-rotted dung, in which the plants will grow strong and become less liable to suffer from the effects of heat and dry weather.

TIGRIDIA PAVONIA bulbs should now be planted two inches deep.

Watch the advancing buds of Roses, and if the leaves appear curled search for a grub whose presence this indicates, or the bloom will be destroyed by it. Window plants should be repotted, and the branches trained or thinned out if necessary; put sticks to any advancing flower-stems; choice Tulips should be protected from heavy rains or frost if possible; where this cannot be done, shade them from the sun, and water the leaves when frozen early in the day. Clip Box edgings; turn gravel walks, and rake down the beds or borders smooth and neat.

## MAY.

TOWARDS the middle of this month all kinds of tender plants may be placed or planted out of doors; and for cuttings or seedlings which have been housed, either morning or evening in showery weather is the best time. No plant should be planted out without first ascertaining its habit, height, and colour of flower, so that the most proper situation may be determined. Half-hardy plants, as Fuchsias, Hydrangeas, and Agapanthuses, or African Lilies, may now have their winter coverings removed. In dry weather water becomes necessary to many plants in the open ground; but it should not be used un-

less positively required, as the benefits arising from artificial watering are but temporary, and it has the effect of exciting the roots, thereby rendering them more susceptible of drought after the water given them has been evaporated. When, however, it becomes really necessary to water, it should be given morning and evening, much more abundantly than is usually done, and never discontinued after its commencement, until a change in the weather renders it unnecessary. A proper discrimination in the selection of objects for watering should be made, preferring seed-beds and crops which can be regularly and thoroughly watered, as Radishes, Lettuces, or newly-set plants. In the case of Strawberries or fresh-planted trees, mulching with straw or grass, to prevent the rapid evaporation of moisture from the soil, should be adopted.

## VEGETABLES.

Hoe between and thin out the Onions where they are too thick, and fill up the vacancies, in wet weather. Hoe and thin Carrots, leaving them about six inches apart, and Parsneps nine inches. Strew soot or lime over any seedlings infested with insects. Keep the hoe industriously employed between all advancing crops; any plants intended for seed should have stakes placed to them to prevent them from being broken. Never attempt to save seeds of two varieties of the same kind of vegetable at one time: as, for instance, Cabbage and Cauliflower, or Broccoli, it being impossible to prevent them from being mixed by insects; and instead of producing the true kinds, a race of worthless mules will be the consequence; therefore, if seed-saving is adopted, which is not to be recommended except in a few instances, only save one of a kind—as, one Lettuce, one Bean, Curled Parsley, Celery, &c.

BEANS.—Sow as recommended last month, p. 12; the Long-pod is the most profitable. Should the weather prove dry, the seed may be soaked 24 hours before planting, and the open drills watered. Top the early crops as soon as they are in full flower, or when the black fly makes its appearance, which it always does upon the tops. Pinching them off is the best and surest remedy; draw earth to the stems when about six inches high.

BORECOLE.—If sufficient were not raised from the sowing made last month, some more should be put in immediately.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS.—The same treatment may be given as for Borecole.

BROCCOLI.—Make another small sowing of the Early Purple Sprouting to succeed the first; also White Broccoli for spring, if room is no object.

CABBAGE.—Sow, about the third or last week, some quick-heading sorts for use during the autumn. These will continue good until severe frost spoils them, and renders winter greens tender. Early York, Battersea, Barnes' Early Dwarf, Waite's King of Cabbages, British Queen, or similar quick kinds should be chosen. Some of the stoutest plants of the March sowing should now be planted out one foot apart, leaving the smaller plants for succession. Cabbages

should have dung given them at planting, unless the land is strong. Tie up the leaves of some of the earliest to assist their hearting.

CARROTS.—The Early Horn may be thinned to about three inches apart; and when they get too thick again, every other one may be drawn for immediate use.

CAULIFLOWERS.—In the second or third week, the crop to come into use in October should be sown, and those raised in March should be finally planted out; choose for them an open spot of deep, well-enriched soil, and supply them copiously with water if the weather renders it necessary. They may be watered with manure-water from the cesspool occasionally.

CELERY.—Early this month the first plants will probably be sufficiently advanced to prick out in a warm sheltered situation to strengthen. The best plan is to choose a perfectly hard surface; and upon this, spread a layer of rotten dung about three inches thick, beating it tolerably firm with the head of a rake. Upon this spread a thin coating of soil, say half an inch thick, and into this prick the plants three inches apart. The advantages of this method are, that the plants root better in dung than soil, and are much easier kept moist, which is essential to them; and by having a hard surface beneath, they are prevented from forming tap-roots, and rendered less likely to run to seed prematurely; and on removing them to plant in the trenches, they may be cut out with balls of matted fibres, and being then well watered, will scarcely flag at all. Shade them for a few days after they are pricked out, and guard them from slugs.

CRESS may be sown every month for a succession in a moist situation. Mustard must be sown every fortnight. The seeds do not require covering, but the ground should be made quite level, and watered; then strew the seed thickly on the surface, and press it in with a flat piece of board, or the back of the spade.

KIDNEY-BEANS.—This delicious vegetable may be eaten freely by the most delicate person; the ground intended for Beans should never be manured at the time of sowing; but if fresh soil has been trenched up in a suitable place, sow them in it. Fulmer's Early, or Negro, may be sown, for the first crop, the first or second week; for a succession, sow according to the demand, once a month; the cream-coloured and dun are the best for a main crop; the rows should be eighteen inches or two feet apart, and the drills two inches deep. In dry weather, water the drills before sowing the seeds, which should be dropped in two inches apart.

SCARLET-RUNNER BEANS.—This prolific and important crop to the cottager should also be sown the first or second week this month. For a plant so familiar as this, particular circumstances will always point out the most desirable situation, either in the garden to form an arbour, to hide something unsightly, or to cover the cottage-porch, no creeper is more suitable, or has more claims for such situations. Scarlet Runners will grow in nearly any soil; but if sown in the open part of the garden, the rows should range north and south; draw the drills from two to three inches deep, and drop the seeds the same distance apart. To ensure good crops, detached or single rows are preferable to sowing them in a plot, even if a good width be left between, which should never be less than three feet. They are sometimes grown without stakes, and kept dwarf by having their tops frequently pinched off; one important matter is, never to leave pods for seed over the whole piece, but gather clean, and leave sufficient for seed ungathered in one place, as most plants after they have matured a few seeds cease to be so prolific as before.

LEEKS.—The young plants will probably be ready by the end of the month, or as soon as they are six inches high, for transplanting out permanently. A piece of the strongest land should be chosen for them, which has been deeply dug and well manured. They may be planted in drills a foot apart, and about nine inches in the row; or a large dibber may be used for each to make a wide hole, about four inches deep, into which the plants must be dropped, and fixed by pouring some water from the spout of a watering-pot into the holes; make some puddle, in which the roots must be dipped before planting.

LETTUCE.—A succession may again be sown; let the surface of the ground be freshened up, if it has not been recently dug, and sow thinly upon a piece sufficiently large to hold plants for a fortnight's supply; and let the thinnings be planted on an adjoining piece of the same size. If the ground is moderately dry, tread the seeds in, and cover them very lightly with soil from the alleys.

MARJORAM.—The sweet or knotted kind may now be sown in a warm situation.

MARIGOLD.—Those who like the flavour of the flowers in soups should sow now; they will grow in any soil or situation.

NASTURTIUM, or INDIAN CRESS, is not only useful, but exceedingly ornamental; it should, therefore, be sown early, where it will climb, to hide any unsightly object, or cover an arbour; the dark-flowering kinds produce fruit as plentifully as the light one, and make a beautiful variety. The seeds pickled resemble capers, and by some persons are preferred. If not used by the cottager, they will find a ready sale. The young points of the side shoots and the flowers may be used with Mustard and Cress, and are considered highly beneficial to persons subject to flatulency and weakness of the bowels. Sow the seeds in drills an inch and a half deep, in any situation. There is a dwarf kind, which is more an object for the flower-garden—it possesses the same properties; also a double-flowered variety, worthy a place in the window or flower-border.

ONIONS.—The surface-soil about them cannot be too often loosened; and the autumn-sown ones must be planted out during the first moist weather; choose for them a piece of rich deeply-dug soil, and in planting take great care not to bury the bulb of the Onion, only inserting its roots in the soil, settling it about them by a copious watering in the evening, which must be continued until it has made fresh roots. Plant the Onions in rows eight inches apart and six inches from each other.

PEAS.—Sow as before for succession; and earth-up and stick those advancing.

POTATOES may still be planted as directed last month. Draw or add earth to any rising through the ground, especially to those planted in March, for fear of frost.

RADISHES.—Sow as recommended last month, p. 15.

SAVOY.—See BORECOLE.

SUMMER SAVORY may be sown the first week; it is an excellent seasoning for Peas, and other similar vegetables, and is said to correct their tendency to create flatulency; it likes a dry situation, and may remain where sown.

SPINACH may be sown in a shaded situation, but will soon run to seed. The round-leaved kind is proper to sow now. Spinach is not a profitable summer crop.

TURNIPS.—About the middle of the month a moderate sowing may be made of Early Dutch; this sowing will not stand long; if dry weather occur, it must be watered. Turnips are nourishing

food, and if grown upon poor soil and dug in they enrich it considerably.

## FRUIT.

VINES, towards the end of the month, or as soon as the fruit-bearing shoots can be distinguished, should have the weak and ill-placed ones rubbed off. There is usually too much young wood left on Vines, which only crowds, and prevents the fruit and the bearing-rods of the next year from ripening. When the runners of Strawberries are not required for propagation, cut them off, as they withdraw considerable nourishment from the plants; water them regularly and copiously, if the weather renders it necessary. Any grafts which appear firmly united, and are growing freely, may have the clay removed from them in wet weather, and the union newly tied, as the first will soon pinch. On removing the clay, if the union is not perfect, a little damp moss may be tied on in its place, and stakes put to them. Remove suckers or strong growths from the middle of Gooseberry* and Currant bushes, and stop the shoots where large fruit is desired. Thin out the suckers of Raspberries to four or six of the strongest. Look over trained trees, and regulate the shoots by removing foreright and ill-placed ones. Watch narrowly for insects, and destroy them.

## FLOWERS.

CREEPERS against walls should never be allowed to become entangled before they are trained. Keep all advancing flower-stems neatly tied; if this is neglected too long, no amount of after care will make them look neat. When the stems of Fuchsia have become a good length, some may be layered, by making an incision on the upper side, &c., as recommended for Carnations in July; they will soon root, and make fine plants for flowering late in autumn in pots.

ANNUALS may be sown for late autumn-flowering.

AURICULAS.—Unless seed is wanted, cut down the flower-stems as soon as the bloom is over; they should then be potted, using plenty of drainage, with the following compost:—One-half rich turfy loam; one-fourth well-rotted cow-dung, or prepared night-soil; and one-fourth sharp river-sand: these should have been well mixed, and frequently turned in winter; if a few half-decayed tree-leaves are added at the time of potting, they will assist in keeping the soil open. After they are potted, set them on a stage of boards facing the east. Polyanthuses, when done flowering, may be planted out under an east fence or wall.

DAHLIAS, about the middle of the month, or as soon after as the plants can be ready, may be planted out permanently; a fresh loamy soil suits them best, when it can be had; but if circumstances render it necessary to plant year after year in the same situation, some of the old soil should be taken away, and fresh brought to replace it. The holes for them should be broken up 18 inches deep; where the soil is of a light texture, loam should be added, and the crowns of the roots placed so deep as to admit of their being mulched, and then made level with the border with a thin covering of soil, which will not only obviate the unsightly appearance of mulching, but prevent insects harbouring in it, which they otherwise would do. If Dahlias are

* Different methods of pruning and training Gooseberries will be found in the "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1841, pp. 132, 829. 1843, p. 806.

planted in straight lines, adhere to the following arrangement of colours as near as possible, without, at the same time, losing sight of the importance of regulating them according to the height they grow, which is also necessary in creating a good effect:—white, orange, purple, yellow; white, lilac, purple, scarlet. We do not suppose that in many cottage-gardens all these colours, with their shades, will be possessed; but this arrangement will shew the mixture of colours in the manner that the best judges consider the most harmonious. Orange should always be separated from yellow or red, blue from violet, and so on. White will harmonise with any colour.

Hranthemase*.—Propagate by cuttings in a shady place for autumn-flowering; young plants always produce the largest and finest flowers.

Hydrangeas.—Thin out the shoots when too thick, leaving only the strongest; some of the points may be put in as cuttings. Many methods of turning the flowers blue have been recommended; planting them in peat-earth will generally accomplish it.

Marvel of Peru roots may now be planted out in a warm place, as recommended for Dahlias.

Pelargoniums † (Scarlet) which have been kept in the cellar may now be planted out; also Fuchsias.

Pinks of choice kinds should have their weak flower-stems removed, leaving only the centre one, and the blooms on each plant should be reduced to four or five to have them fine; water them with manure-water. In tying up the stems, do not tie over a joint, or in growing they are liable to be broken.

Propagate by cuttings, as recommended in April, Double Wall-flowers, Rochets, Double Lychnis, &c.

Stocks.—Sow Giant and Brompton, covering the seeds lightly.

## JUNE.

Watering out of doors is more or less necessary during this month, for newly-planted vegetables and flowers, and from drought. After watering, the ground round the plants becomes hard upon the surface, if not loosened with the hoe. Gather herbs for drying just before they are in full flower, as they then contain their essential oils in greater abundance than at any other time. Gather them in dry weather, and spread them in the shade to dry, for if placed in the sun it destroys their colour and aroma. Remove Cabbage-stalks not required for sprouts, and all kinds of decaying crops.

### VEGETABLES.

Beans.—The last crop may now be sown of Early Longpod or Hangdown; if the weather is dry, soak the seeds and water the drills as before. Top any in full bloom, and draw earth to those advancing.

Borecole.—Towards the end of the month some of the stoutest plants will be ready for final transplanting, which should be done, if

* For a description of the properties of the Pansy, see "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1841, p. 67. 1845, p. 328.

† For Messrs. Catleugh and Cox's methods of growing Pelargoniums, see "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1841, pp. 83, 100.

possible, in moist weather. Draw drills 18 inches or two feet apart; if 18 inches apart, place the plants the same distance in the rows, or 15 inches if in drills two feet apart. The roots had better be puddled before planting.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS.—Treat precisely as the above.

BROCCOLI.—Some plants of Purple Sprouting will now be ready for planting out in a similar manner to Borecole. A well-prepared plot of strong ground should be chosen in an open situation for all these winter crops; but if there is a scarcity of room, some may be planted between the potatoes and the haulm kept from smothering them. If it is wished to grow the spring kinds of Broccoli, they must be sown early this month.

CABBAGE.—A few more of the March-sown may be planted out, to succeed those planted last month. About the 25th of the month sow a few of the Early York for a first crop of Coleworts: these are much neglected in cottage-gardens, although the circumstance of their occupying the ground so short a time, and being equal to young spring Cabbages, from growing so quick, no crop can be more profitable. The main sowing is made next month.

CARROTS, if not permanently thinned, should be now, hoeing deeply among them at the same time.

CELERY.—As soon as the earliest plants have become pretty strong, prepare a bed for them as follows:—Take out the earth from a deeply-dug piece of ground, where the soil is rich and light, about six inches deep and four feet wide, laying it in a ridge along the side of the opening; then add to the surface of the bed a layer of well-rotted dung three inches thick; turn this in carefully, bringing about two inches of soil to the top; then plant in rows crosswise 15 inches apart and six inches plant from plant, reducing the tops slightly. By this method a great number of plants are raised upon a small piece of ground, and it answers equally well for single rows for early use. In earthing up, two pieces of board are used of the same length as the width of the bed, placing one along each row, and filling between them, lifting the boards out carefully and proceeding with the next row, always taking care not to add too much soil at a time. Do not allow the plants to want water at any time, nor earth too soon, as the object of earthing is merely to blanch for use; and a fortnight or three weeks will accomplish this. After the plants are earthed they cease to grow fast.

CRESS AND MUSTARD may again be sown as before.

KIDNEY BEANS.—Sow cream-coloured. See the directions given in MAY. If the weather is dry, soak the seeds before sowing for 24 hours, and water the drills.

LEEKS.—Plant, if not previously done, as recommended last month.

LETTUCE.—Towards the end of the month sow for succession as recommended in MAY, p. 20.

ONIONS.—Hoe between and keep free from weeds.

PEAS.—In the first week the last sowing for the season may be made, for which choose Knight's Dwarf Green Marrow, as it is better able to withstand drought than many other kinds. In dry soils, if a narrow trench be taken out, and some rotten dung put in it, sowing the Peas above it, they will not be so liable to mildew. These late Peas must be sown thinner than the early kinds, as they branch a good deal: they also require stronger sticks. Water them in the rows if dry weather occur; draw earth to the stems and stick these advancing.

POTATOES.—Earth-up after rain, when the surface-soil is tolerably dry; leave the ridges rather wide at top than otherwise.

RADISH.—Sow any of the kinds upon a north border or other moist situation.

SCARLET BEANS may yet be sown. Draw earth to those sown last month, and stop any intended to be grown without sticks.

TURNIPS.—A main sowing may now be made. If space be an object, sow White Stone; but otherwise Yellow Dutch or Swedish will be found to keep longer and be more solid; and any roots left in the ground will produce an abundance of delicious and wholesome greens early in spring. Tread the seed in lightly, and water it when necessary. When the plants come up, sprinkle them with soot or lime.

## FRUIT.

Cherry-trees on walls usually become infested with black fly at this season, which, if not checked, will extend to the fruit. An effectual and simple remedy is, immediately they are perceived mix some clayey soil with water in such proportions as will form a thin puddle, into which dip the infested points, leaving them to dry in the sun. After the inclosed insects have perished, the clay may readily be washed off; but it will do no harm in remaining. Roses and many other plants may be cleaned in the same manner. Vines trained against the house or walls must now be looked over weekly, and all weak and superfluous shoots removed. The earlier this is attended to the better, and more likely to forward the ripening of the fruit. A common fault committed in the management of Vines, is leaving too much wood, which not only hinders the fruit of the current year from receiving due nourishment, but prevents the fruiting wood for next season from maturing its buds, to assist which all the sun and air possible should be permitted to penetrate. This should be borne in mind when thinning out young and useless shoots: do not allow one spur to support two bunches of grapes, but remove the smallest or uppermost one, and stop the shoots at an eye above the fruit. Continue to water Strawberries, if necessary. Keep newly-grafted shoots securely tied, and the summer shoots of trained trees fastened in.

## FLOWERS.

Small plants of Pelargoniums or Fuchsias intended for the windows in autumn will make fine specimens for that purpose, if planted out early this month; or they may be potted at once into their winter pots, and plunged out of doors, taking care that they have good drainage, and using precautions against their rooting through the bottoms or over the tops of the pots.

ANNUALS.—Some of the quick-flowering kinds may yet be sown, as Virginian Stock, Venus's Looking-glass, Clárkia, Collínsia, Gília, &c. Some of those thinned out from the border may be potted for flowering in the window, or be placed in a shady place, to form a succession. They will require plenty of water. Some of the more tender kinds which were sown in pots, and raised in the cucumber-pit, may be planted in the open borders, as French and African Marigolds, Ten-week Stocks, China Asters, Zinnias, and Phlox Drummondii.

BULBS of Ranunculus, Hyacinths*, Anemones, and Tulips, as soon as the foliage has turned yellow, must be taken up, if they are choice kinds, and stored away when dry in paper-bags until the planting season. If suffered to remain in the ground, they shoot again in the

* For description of properties of, see "*Gard. Chron*" 1841, p. 308.

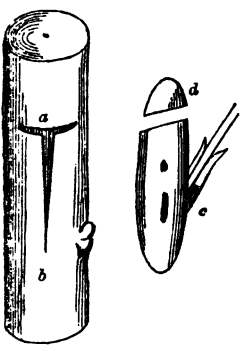
autumn, which weakens the bulbs, and spoils their blooming at the proper season; and Tulips, when left in the ground, become run in their colours. The soil should be carefully cleansed from them, but none of the skins removed. Care must be taken in handling Ranunculuses and Anemones not to break their claws.

CARNATIONS should have neat sticks placed to tie their flower-stems. This should be done loosely, to admit their elongating without breaking. If aphides infest the young buds, they may be brushed off with a stiff feather, or dusted in the morning, when damp, with Scotch snuff. Pale-coloured kinds will be much benefited by applications of liquid manure once or twice a week. Liquid manure will be found of great advantage to other florists' flowers when putting forth their flower-stems—namely, Pinks, Ranunculuses, Polyanthuses, and Hyacinths.

DAHLIAS.—Keep them neatly and securely tied up, and water them if necessary.

FUCHSIAS, Verbenas, Heliotropes, and similar plants, readily strike by cuttings now.

ROSES may be budded towards the end of the month. This operation is performed as follows:—Select a healthy, free-grown shoot, and at an eligible position for a bud make a cross cut through the bark, as is shown in the figure at *a*; then from the centre of this, by passing the knife downwards, make the longitudinal incision *b*, taking care that the knife does not penetrate deeper than the inner bark. If the stock is in a proper state for budding, the edges of this T-shaped wound may be readily raised. Then from the kind to be budded choose a healthy, full-grown bud, and with a very sharp knife pare it off with a small portion of the wood, in the form of a shield, as at *c*. This, after the wood has been carefully separated from it without injuring the base of the bud, is pushed below the bark by introducing its lower end at the cross-cut *a*. When it has been pushed down nearly its length, the upper end of the bud must be cut off, *d*, so as to fit the upper side of the cross-cut *a* exactly. The bud is then secured by tying it closely with bast or worsted; and some recommend a coating of clay and cow dung, to exclude air. Unless the bark rises freely from the stock, it is not in a good state for budding. Roses which are not readily raised from cuttings should be layered early in this month. The operation is precisely similar to that described for Carnations.—See JULY, p. 29.




PERENNIALS and BIENNIALS, raised from seed, may be pricked out, to strengthen before their final transplantation.

PINKS.—Many kinds of choice Pinks, in expanding, are liable to burst their calyx, either from robust growth, or a naturally short calyx. To prevent this, a narrow strip of parchment or bladder may be passed round them, and secured with a little gum-water; or if blad-

der is used when moist, it will adhere of itself, and can be readily removed before exhibition. Some circular pieces of card should also be cut of the same width as the flower, to arrange the petals upon; for although the petals of a first-rate Pink do expand even and level, they are better secured by this contrivance. Slit the card to the centre on one side, and in the centre make two or three cross-cuts, to admit its being fixed upon the calyx without bruising it. As the flowers expand, the small or irregular petals must be extracted, and the others laid out horizontally, so as not to interrupt the circular lacings. Some short-calyxed Pinks will burst in defiance of these precautions. To prevent this being done irregularly, it is better to slit the calyx of such kinds a short distance down at each of their segments before placing the ligature round them. Expanded flowers must be shaded from the sun if it be wished to retain their beauty any length of time. Various means in the absence of an awning will suggest themselves for this, as caps of stout paper, painted, and supported above them with a stick, like a miniature umbrella—or square pieces of thin board, about six inches wide, fixed upon a stick. The best time for piping is when the plants are in full bloom; if delayed much longer, the shoots get hard, and do not root so readily. They should be taken off when about two inches long, and have the leaves from the two lowermost joints stripped off. Do not shorten the remaining leaves, as is frequently practised. Then in a shady part of the garden prepare some light soil, by digging it fine and level, watering it until it becomes a puddle. Whilst in this state plant the pipings, but do not water them after they are planted. To ensure success, a hand-glass should be placed over them; or they may be planted in wide-mouthed pots with a piece of flat glass over, as recommended in April; or place them at the front of the Cucumber-pit. These early pipings make handsomer and stronger plants than later ones, and are therefore much to be preferred.

Water copiously all plants in pots, newly-planted seedlings, &c., in the evenings. Gather all decayed flowers, as it prolongs the flowering season of such plants as Calceolarias*, China Roses, &c., and is, besides, a nice occupation for children. Destroy weeds. Tie up all advancing flower-stems at an early period; for if allowed to grow straggling at first, no after-management will make them look neat. Examine the buds of Roses for grubs: any plants infested with worms may be cleansed of them by watering with lime-water.

## JULY.

REMOVE all crops of Peas, Beans, &c., the moment they cease to be useful. The Pea-haulm may be dried in the sun for bedding a pig or cow, and some lengths of the stoutest Bean-stalks saved for earwig traps; sow the ground where they have grown with soot or quicklime to destroy slugs, and immediately prepare it for winter Greens or Colewort; preserve ripening seeds from birds, by stretching some dark-coloured worsted over them, and gather any that are ripe. Cut

* For properties of, see "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1841, p. 844.

herbs in flower for drying. The principal crops of winter Greens should be planted this month; any plants found to be diseased with clubs should have the callosities pared off, and their roots and stems dipped in a puddle of earth and soot, or a little lime should be sprinkled in the holes at planting; discard any plants which are blind, that is, when their heart has been destroyed by an insect and grown over by the footstalks; they require examination to detect the faulty ones. Advantage should be taken of rainy weather for planting, otherwise copious waterings will be necessary; dipping the roots in puddle before planting is beneficial in dry weather.

## VEGETABLES.

BEANS.—Hangdown Beans may be sown, but they cease to be profitable at this late season; earth-up and top those advancing.

BORECOLE.—The main plantation must be made as soon as the plants are fit and the weather favourable.—See last month, p. 22.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS AND SAVOYS.—Treat as Borecole.

BROCCOLI.—Plant out the main crop of the Purple sprouting, for which choose the strongest ground the garden affords; or it may be planted beside Borecole, and treated in a similar manner.

CABBAGE.—Some of those sown in May may now be planted for autumn and early winter use, a foot apart. A few more seeds for Coleworts should be sown as before, about the middle of the month, and in late cold situations Large York, Nonpareil, Vanack, or any favourite kind, may be sown in the last week, for the principal spring and summer crop; in early situations next month will do for this. An open spot of light soil should be chosen for the seed-bed, and sow rather thin, which will cause the plants to rise stronger; the beds must be kept watered in dry weather and shaded until the seeds vegetate.

CAULIFLOWER.—If any were sown in May, they will be ready for transplanting this month; choose for them a moist situation, and let the ground be rich and well dug; plant them in drills two feet apart, and give them copious supplies of water whenever dry weather occurs.

CELERY.—The main crop should now be planted the first favourable weather, in shallow trenches, 15 inches wide, into which plenty of well-rotted dung has been dug; stretch a line along the bottom, and plant a row on each side of the line; the trenches may be about three feet apart, when more than one is required; if it is intended to grow a few plants of an extra size for exhibition, they should be planted in detached holes expressly prepared for them, by breaking them up deep and adding plenty of good dung; set the plants upon the surface, and supply them regularly and copiously with water when necessary. To blanch them, the leaves may be tied together loosely, and wound round with straw or hay-bands, a little at a time—or four narrow pieces of wood may be nailed together, forming a square tube about one foot long and eight inches square, and slipped over them, filling up the sides with dry sand or gravel; when the first length becomes filled up, another may be added. Earthing-up Celery with a great mass of soil prevents its becoming very large, particularly in

dry seasons, as it precludes the roots of the plants from receiving much moisture, which is of the greatest importance to them.

CUCUMBERS will require the bearing-shoots to be regularly distributed, and all weakly ones removed, also bad leaves or deformed fruit; and they must be supplied regularly with water.

KIDNEY-BEANS.—The last crop should be sown the first week; none will be found more profitable than the cream-coloured; draw a little earth to the stems of those advancing.

LETTUCE.—A few more may be sown for succession (see MAY, p. 201. In dry weather never neglect the watering of Lettuce, both in the seed-bed and when fit for use, and stir the soil frequently about them.

ONIONS.—Potato-Onions may be taken up as soon as the stems have withered; leave them exposed, root upwards, a few days in the sun before they are stored by; preserve sufficient to replant in December. Large bulbs produce the greatest weight, but small bulbs form the handsomest Onions; these should be used before the spring or autumn-sown.

PEAS.—Earth-up and stick as they may require. Put sticks to them immediately after they are high enough to be earthed.

POTATOES.—Draw earth up to their stems, in a rounded ridge, but not to a pointed one; pick off the blossoms as soon as they begin to expand; children can perform this, and it has been proved to increase the weight of produce over others where blossoms had been left.

RADISH.—A few of the Turnip-rooted kinds may be sown in a shaded place.

SCARLET-BEANS will now require staking, which must not be neglected, or their growths become entangled. The stakes should be about six feet high, and thrust firmly in the ground; about midway up two smaller rods may be wreathed between them: or if the rods are small at top, they may be secured to each other to form a bower; this will, however, prevent the inner sides of the rows being so productive: remember what was said in MAY respecting leaving Pods for seed.

## FRUIT.

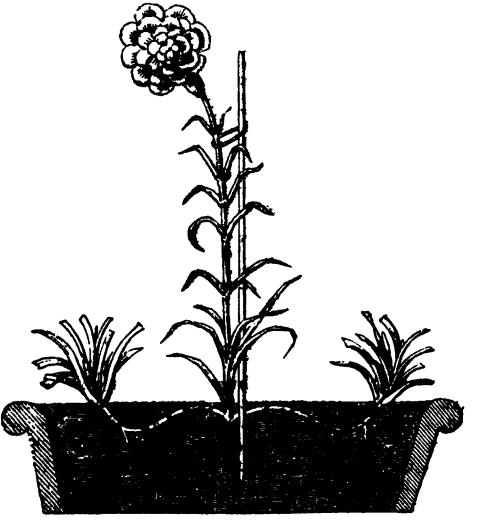
If it is intended to make new plantations of Strawberries, select now some of the strongest runners for that purpose; by planting out during showery weather at this season, they become well established before winter, and usually produce a few fine fruit the following season, which can hardly be the case when delayed until spring. Cherries, Peaches, or Plums may now be budded in the same manner as described for Roses last month; examine grafts, and remove any shoots or suckers that may withdraw nourishment from the scion, and keep it secure from injury by winds. Trained Pears, Plums, Apples, or Cherries, should have all the summer growths, except those intended to be trained in; shortened back to two or three eyes, to encourage the formation of fruit-buds. Vines must be regularly looked over, and have all weak, useless shoots removed, as last month; if the smallest berries are thinned out regularly and carefully with a pair of scissors, the remaining berries will swell much larger, and in favourable seasons be scarcely distinguishable from hothouse fruit. Currants and Gooseberries should have any of their summer wood that may shade the fruit cut out. Gooseberries intended for exhibition must have no rain upon them; many growers place a saucer of water beneath each fruit, of which only four or five are left upon a young vigorous tree, which is either mulched with well-rotted dung or watered with manure-water whilst the fruit is swelling.

## FLOWERS.

Annuals, during showery weather, may be thinned out, and the thinnings planted.

Bulbs.—Continue to take up as their foliage decays, and supply their places with annuals or other plants.

Carnations.—Towards the middle or end of the month is the most proper time to layer these, for which choose dry weather, as the shoots are then much less liable to snap off when bending them after the incision is made. The operation is performed as follows:—First remove the leaves from the part of the stem to be buried in the soil, and about an inch of the extreme points of the terminal leaves; then with a sharp knife make an incision a short distance below the most eligible joint to be found within about two or three of the top; the cut should pass half through the stem, and then upwards, nearly to the joint above, and cut the small portion of stem remaining on the tongue immediately below the joint (see figure); then bend



the shoot down to the soil, which has been loosened for its reception, and secure it there with a small hooked stick, covering it with some finely-broken soil, an inch deep, made tolerably firm about it; after this, a watering renders the operation complete. All common layering is managed on the same principle, a layer being "a cutting not separated from the parent plant until it has emitted roots

for its own support." In layering many kinds of brittle plants it will be found a good plan to make the cut upon the upper side, instead of the lower one, for this reason: when the layer is bent down, after the incision is made at top, the strain is upon the stem, which will stretch a little without breaking; but when made at the under side, the strain is on the flat-sided wound, which readily snaps. Where the Carnation stems are very numerous it may be worth while to put some in as pipings, in the same manner as recommended for Pinks, about the 1st of the month; these are much less certain than layers, but are said to make healthier and stouter plants when they do strike; a gentle bottom-heat would be of advantage to them. The opening flowers must be protected from sun and rain, the calyx tied or secured, and the petals arranged as has been recommended for Pinks. If seedlings were raised last year, they will now be in flower; select those worth keeping.

DAHLIAS.—Thin out weak branches, and keep the plants neatly and securely tied; cuttings may now be struck, for preserving in pots during winter.

HEARTSEASE.—Plant out seedlings, and propagate choice kinds by cuttings, in a shaded situation.

HYDRANGEAS may be increased at this season by cuttings, as recommended in APRIL, or by layers, making the tongue at the origin of this season's young wood, and shortening the top.

PELARGONIUMS which have flowered may be cut down, and cuttings of the best kinds put in; they will readily root now.

PINKS*.—Pipings may be still put in, and the decayed flowers removed.

ROSES may be budded if the bark rises freely. The stems which have flowered should be cut down to a good eye; a succession of flowers will be thus encouraged; examine the earliest buds, that the ties are not pinching.

STOCKS.—In leaving single-flowered plants to produce seed, choose those containing the greatest number of petals.

When double-flowering herbaceous plants are going out of flower, they will be usually found in the fittest state for increase. Clip Box-edgings—also deciduous hedges. Keep creepers neatly trained up, and allow no weeds to be seen.

## AUGUST.

DURING this month the hues of autumn will begin to make their appearance; but its approaches in the flower-borders may be deferred by regularly removing decayed flowers of such plants as throw up a succession. Chines. Chrysanthemums should have their tops taken off now at different heights, so that the flowers may range above each other, and the plants become furnished with numerous flowering branches instead of one; some of the strongest of the top-shoots removed may be immediately planted into small pots as cuttings—they will soon root and make

* For an easy method of propagating Pinks, see "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1841, p. 19. 1845, p. 489. Properties of, 1845, p. 432.

dwarf flowering-plants. The bandages round buds or late grafts will by this time require loosening, and re-tying if they are not firmly united. Plants intended for late flowering in the window, as Calceolarias or Fuchsias, should be kept free from flowers now; and, for the same purpose, a few of the best late annuals may be potted and placed in a shady situation. Examine bulbs that they are not damp, or they will soon become mouldy and injured. Destroy weeds and insects whenever detected. Gather herbs in flower for drying, and articles for pickling. Keep the soil about winter crops regularly loosened.

## VEGETABLES.

BEANS.—Earth up and top when in full bloom.

BORECOLE, BRUSSELS SPROUTS, SAVOYS, and all other advancing crops of Greens, should be frequently hoed between. As soon as they become sufficiently advanced, some earth may be drawn to their stems; this will not be required so soon where they have been planted in drills, as they become filled up in hoeing between, which answers the same purpose.

BROCCOLI.—Plant out the last crop of Sprouting, or any kind of Broccoli, as recommended in June; choose the strongest soil for them.

CABBAGE.—In the first, or at latest second week, prepare in an open spot a bed for sowing Cabbage for the main spring or early summer supply; the Battersea, Early Frompton, Enfield Market, or Vanack, are the best kinds; sow them rather thin, as it is important this sowing should rise with strong stems. A little seed of the Red Dutch may be sown at the same time and in the same manner: the seed-beds must be kept regularly watered if necessary, and they would be better shaded should the weather prove dry and hot; towards the end of the month some of the first sown seed for Coleworts will probably be sufficiently strong for transplanting in drills a foot apart; the roots should be dipped in a puddle if the ground is dry.

CARROTS.—A small patch of Early Horn may be sown on a warm border to stand the winter; they often prove valuable in spring.

CAULIFLOWER.—Those who have built a turf-pit or possess other means of preserving young plants through the winter for heading in May, when they are valuable, should sow about the 20th to the 25th, upon a warm open aspect, in rich well-prepared soil; sow them thin, for the same reasons as mentioned at *Cabbage*.

CELERY.—Earthing-up the earliest Celery must not be neglected, but it should never be commenced until after the roots have been well supplied with moisture, either naturally or artificially, as water does not penetrate to them so readily afterwards, without which they will neither grow larger or be good; for this reason late Celery should never be earthed up too soon, as it not only retards its growth, but impairs its keeping through the winter; the outer stems should be well matured before earthing, as the only object in earthing is to blanch it, which may be accomplished in three weeks or a month Do not add much earth at a time, and take care none enters the heart. Some late plants may be planted out in double drills about two feet apart: these will be found extremely useful for broths or soups after the earlier has been used or destroyed by frost

CUCUMBERS.—Protect them from heavy rains. By closing down the lights early in the afternoon, mildew will not attack them so soon. Remove from them all diseased fruit or leaves, and stop young weakly shoots.

LEEKS.—Those intended for earliest use, if they were not planted deep, should have some earth drawn to their lower ends to blanch them.

LETTUCE.—About the middle of the month sow for standing through the winter. Brown Cos, Brown Dutch, Cabbage, Black-seeded Green Cos, and Hammersmith Hardy Green, are the hardiest kinds.

ONIONS should now have their necks bent down horizontally without breaking them; those with thin necks, as soon as they become weak, should be drawn up and turned root upwards in dry weather; if they are allowed to remain in the ground after this and wet weather ensues, they will emit fresh roots, and begin to grow again, which impairs their keeping. About the third week some Brown Portugal or White Spanish should be sown for transplanting in spring, and in the first week some may be sown thick for drawing young with Radishes.

PARSLEY which is very thick and crowded may now be cut over close to the ground.

RADISHES.—The White and Black Spanish, if sown early this month, will be fit for use in November, and through the winter.

SPINACH.—At the latter end of the month the main crop of winter Spinach must be sown; for this crop the Flanders Spinach is the best; it is a round-seeded kind, by which means it may be easily known if true, the common winter Spinach having a prickly seed; it should be sown rather thin, broadcast on four feet beds, choosing for it a rich light soil and a dry situation.

SALADING may be sown as before.

## FRUIT.

New plantations of Strawberries may still be made, and all the runners cut off from the old plants. To protect Plums or other ripe fruit on walls from flies and wasps, some bottles hung up in the trees partly filled with beer-dregs, sweetened with treacle, will decoy them. Examine Vines regularly, and remove all useless growths, particularly any formed above the fruit, which should be exposed to the sun; the smaller berries may still be thinned out; keep all the branches neatly nailed in. Raspberry canes which have ripened off their fruit should be cut down; by so doing these intended to bear next season will be strengthened.

## FLOWERS.

ANNUALS should be removed as soon as their flowers decay, unless seed from them is required, when a portion may remain; but in the majority of cases, the earliest flowers will have perfected their seeds before the plant becomes unsightly.

AURICULAS.—Many growers prefer the first week in this month to pot their plants, alleging as a reason that when potted in May (which see) they are more liable to throw up weak flower-stems in autumn, but this will only occur in wet seasons, and then partially; however, many successful growers have adopted both seasons. If they were potted as soon as their flowers were over, a top-dressing of the same soil will benefit them now, removing any decayed leaves, and taking off-sets from them for increase.

BULBS.—Continue to take up any whose leaves are decayed.

CARNATIONS may be layered in the beginning of the month; and as soon as the plants have rooted, which will be in five or six weeks, they must be taken off and potted two or three in a small pot, and placed in a shaded situation to get established before winter; they may then be placed in the pit, or be hooped over and protected during severe weather; drain the pots well, as too great abundance of wet is more to be feared than frost; the commoner kinds may be planted out without potting.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS* should now be shifted into their flowering-pots, using strong rich soil; it will be found a good plan to save watering, (of which they require a great deal,) to cover the surface-soil in the pots with moss, to prevent it from drying so quick; when they get established in these pots they may receive waterings of liquid manure twice a week.

DAHLIAS.—Gather seeds of any choice kinds. Keep them neatly tied, and examine the early ties that they do not pinch; loosen them if they do, or the wind will easily break them at that point. Remove decaying flowers, and watch for Caterpillars. Flowers intended for exhibition had better have some oiled cotton fastened round their stems as a precaution; they must also be sheltered from strong sunshine and heavy rains. To entrap earwigs, place a small flower-pot inverted upon the stake with a little hay in the bottom, or put some short lengths of bean-stalks amongst the branches, and examine them every morning, blowing the insects into a basin of hot water.

HEARTSEASE.—Cuttings of any choice kinds for the principal spring bloom should now be put in in a shaded situation—they may for security receive a slight protection during winter.

PELARGONIUMS.—Any that were cut down after flowering, and have begun to sprout again, may have the soil carefully shaken from their roots, and be repotted in as small pots as possible, using poor soil; this is to allow of their being successively potted in spring, which if left in their flowering-pots could not take place; set them in the pit at once, or in a shaded situation, until they re-root.

PINKS.—The pipings should be pricked out immediately they are rooted, to strengthen before they are finally planted at the end of next month.

PROPAGATE by cuttings such plants as Petunias, Verbenas, Calceolarias, scarlet Pelargoniums, and Mesembryanthemums, for next year; prepare pots filled with light soil and well drained; then plant thickly round their sides the cuttings, which will readily root if placed in a shaded situation, or in the turf-pit, or house-window, where they may remain all the winter.

STOCKS.—Biennial kinds, as Giant or Brompton, should now be planted out where it is intended they should flower.

SEEDS of Calceolarias and Pelargoniums should be sown now in pots; if deferred until spring, they do not flower the same season. Gather any that are ripe.

Keep all plants in flower neatly tied up, and remove their flowering stems as soon as they cease to be interesting; evergreen hedges or shrubs may be cut in, and keep every part of the garden in as perfect order as possible.

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* For descriptive list of, see "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1845, p. 720.

## SEPTEMBER.

The shortening days, cold nights, and decreasing gaiety of the flower-borders this month, must not relax the endeavours to preserve cleanliness and neatness, but rather tend to increase perseverance, in keeping the plants that remain in perfection, and all parts of the garden in still better order; this will be found the best means of extending the gratifications to be derived from the garden; a clean, neat garden being at all times a pleasing object even in the depth of winter. There is, however, a great deal to do this month; flower-seeds of various kinds must be collected and dried, keeping each in a separate paper, with its name, height, and colour, or any other observations marked upon it. Any choice or half-hardy plants which have been growing in the open border during the summer should now be potted for the window, or be placed under protection. In the absence of better means of keeping scarlet or other Pelargoniums, they may be lifted with the soil adhering to their roots and hung up in a cellar. Beds for choice bulbs should now be prepared; they should be broken up eighteen inches deep, but no manure added so near their surface as to come in contact with the bulbs. Pinks also should be planted in their flowering beds, as they never do so well when disturbed in spring. Dahlias which have not been mulched, and whose crowns are near the surface, should have a layer of saw-dust spread over them, as much to keep them dry as to preserve them from sudden frost.

### VEGETABLES.

Two hoeings while weeds are small will more effectually extirpate them, and be found far better for the crops, than a deferred hoeing, which will require raking off. Any spot well cleaned now will remain so, but the hoe should be employed between the advancing winter crops, whether there are weeds or not. Thin out to about six inches apart the winter Spinach, and Turnips to double that distance. Continue to gather articles for pickling, and remove all failing crops as soon as they cease to yield profit.

CABBAGE.—Continue to plant out for Coleworts until sufficient ground is occupied, reserving plenty of room for the August-sown plants; as soon as they are sufficiently advanced they must be pricked out about three inches apart; it is important to do this, as it checks their quick growth, and renders them both stouter and hardier for winter.

CAULIFLOWER.—Some of the August-sown, when they have made two perfect leaves, should be pricked out in the most sheltered place

they may survive if a mild winter ensue, particularly if some Fern is spread over them during frost; some others may either be pricked out in pots or in a box, and placed in the turf pit; or a portion of one light may be prepared for their reception, that is, by levelling the Cucumber soil, and planting them in it at three inches apart.

CELERY.—Embrace fine opportunities for earthing-up, adding but little soil at a time.

LETTUCE may be planted out to stand the winter under fences or in other sheltered situations.

ONIONS will be ready to draw, if it has not been done. In storing, any thick-necked ones should be separated from the others and used first; never peel off any of the coatings, or bruise them, if possible. As soon as they are perfectly dry, they should be tied up in ropes or bunches, and suspended in a dry airy place.

POTATOES.—Take up as soon as ripe, that is, when the haulm or tops are decayed. Any intended for seed should lie exposed to the sun for some days previously to storing away. The best way of preserving them is that which will keep them most effectually dry and exclude frost; if a dry cellar is possessed, nothing more will be required; if pitted out of doors, choose a dry situation; and when the Potatoes are dry, lay them in a narrow ridge, then cover them with straw, and upon this place a layer of soil, taken from the edge of the ridge, which will form a drain for the water below the surface where the tubers are laid.

SPINACH.—The winter crop may be sown in the first week, if it has been delayed.—(*See last month*, p. 32.)

## FRUIT.

Gather, during dry weather, any kinds of Apples or Pears which may ripen this month; to ascertain whether they are ready for gathering, raise them gently, and if they part readily from the tree, or if, on cutting one through the middle, the seeds are becoming brown, they may be taken. Early fruit had better be gathered a little before they are quite ripe than after. Strawberry runners may yet be planted. Examine Vines, as recommended last month.

## FLOWERS.

ANNUALS.—Various hardy kinds if sown now will stand ordinary winters without protection. The Californian kinds, introduced by the London Horticultural Society, and through the liberality of that body now common, are very beautiful, and well suited for this purpose; they will flower in great profusion, making the garden gay at a usually dull time, that is, between the decline of the early-flowering bulbs and the summer flowers. A poor soil, in a sheltered situation, should be chosen for them. The following are some of the best:—Clárkias, two sorts, pink and white; Collínsias, blue and white; Œnothera bifrons, pink and crimson; Nemóphilas, two kinds, beautiful blue and white; Gilias, blue and various-coloured; Leptosíphons, &c.

AURICULAS.—Towards the end of the month, sooner or later, according to the state of the weather, these must be placed in their winter-quarters, but they must receive all the air and light possible, only protecting them from heavy rains and frost; the turf-pit will be found the best place for them.

CACTUS.—Early in the month any which have stood out after flowering must be taken in and receive but little water.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—Keep their shoots neatly tied, and do not allow them to suffer for water.

CHINA ROSES.—Cuttings taken off now, and treated as recommended last month, will make blooming plants early next summer.

CALCEOLARIAS*.—Offsets of the herbaceous kinds may now be taken off and potted in small pots, using turfy loam for them

CARNATIONS.—See last month, p. 33.

DAHLIAS will require constant attention; children may catch the earwigs, search for caterpillars, and remove decaying flowers. After the seeds are ripe, they should be taken out directly, or they are apt to rot if left in the flower.

EDGINGS of Box, Thrift or Sea-Daisy, Gentianella, and Saxifrage, may be made new or repaired; beat the edging of soil they are to be planted against very firm with the back of the spade, or they are apt to be loosened by frosts, which causes many plants to die.

PINKS.—If a bed is prepared expressly to grow these as show-flowers, it should be done now; the soil should be good loam, about a foot and a half deep, enriched with a coating of well-rotted cow-dung and lime-rubbish, six inches thick; the bed should be raised about six inches above the surrounding surface, to throw off wet. Choose plants for possessing an upright strong leader and few side shoots, in preference to larger plants having numerous leaders; to obtain fine flowers, one leader to a plant must only be allowed to remain for flowering. Set them about nine inches apart; the remaining plants may be put in the flower-borders.

PROPAGATE by cuttings early in the month, as recommended for August.

SNOWDROPS, Crocuses, Persian Iris, Dog's-tooth Violets, Crown Imperials, and Narcissus—any that are out of the ground must be planted without delay; they may be set from two to three inches deep, according to the size and strength of the bulbs. In many kinds, as Crocus, the new bulbs are formed every year above the old one, which brings them annually nearer the surface, and renders their replanting necessary every three or four years.

TIGRIDIA PAVÓNIA.—The roots may now be taken up, and, after being dried, stored by in bags.

SEEDS.—Gather any desirable kinds immediately they are ripe, or in many plants the most perfect and best seeds will be lost.

Keep walks and borders as neat as possible, and allow no disorderly growths for the want of early tying.

## OCTOBER.

THE principal operations of this month consist in storing Apples and Pears, and various vegetable roots, planting bulbs, and sheltering tender plants. The best criterion for gathering late fruit is the ease with which they leave the tree; in gathering keep each kind separate, and handle them with the greatest care, as upon this their keeping very much depends. Codlins and other kitchen sorts

* For methods of cultivating Calceolarias, see the "*Gardeners Chronicle*," 1841, p. 67.

liable to shrivel had better be laid carefully in small heaps and covered with straw; they will thus keep longer and plumper, retaining their weight. The best material to lay Apples or Pears upon is Fern, or Straw perfectly dry and free from mouldiness; a dry room, a cellar, or any other place if it can be found less influenced by the weather, is the best situation to keep them in; but for the most valuable late-keeping Apples or Pears, the following plan cannot be too strongly recommended:—Get some fine pit-sand and heat it hot, to dry it and destroy any vegetable remains it contains; then procure some large jars or garden-pots, put a little sand when cool in the bottom, and then a layer of fruit, barely touching each other, filling up between them with the sand until the vessels are full, when they may be placed in the bottom of a cupboard, or any other place where they will be safe from frost and kept dry. The best and most perfect fruit should be selected for this purpose, which may be ascertained after they have been gathered a short time. Any choice or late-keeping kind intended for exhibition should be preserved in this manner.

## VEGETABLES.

CABBAGE.—Towards the end of the month some of the stoutest August-sown may be planted out permanently in light rich soil. It will be found a good plan in digging the ground to leave it in shallow ridges 18 inches or two feet apart, with some dung placed under the hollows, in which the plants must be set. A few may also be planted in rows one foot apart; and before they become large enough to crowd each other in spring, every intermediate one may be drawn for present use, leaving the others for cabbaging. The remaining ones should be pricked out from the seed-bed, three inches apart, on a sheltered border, either to plant in spring or fill up vacancies.

CAULIFLOWER.—Watch for slugs on the last sown, or they will soon destroy many plants.

LETTUCE.—The August-sown will now be fit for transplanting under the shelter of a hedge, at the foot of a wall, or fence, or in any situation where they will be partially protected, and have light dry soil.

ONIONS.—Keep seed-beds free from weeds.

PARSNEPS AND CARROTS should be taken up when their tops have turned yellow, and the roots must not be injured in lifting. The better way is to open a wide trench on one side of the piece and trench them out.

POTATOES.—Continue to take up in favourable weather; those intended for seed should be kept where they can be occasionally turned, to prevent their growing.

SPINACH.—Hand-weed and loosen the surface-soil about the plants

Earth-up Celery during fine dry weather, and ridge or dig any ground as soon as vacant, preparing it in the best manner for the crop next intended, unless the land is very light and porous, in

which case manure added now would be in a great measure filtered away before spring.

## FRUIT.

Commence pruning Gooseberry and Currant bushes; towards the end of the month they may also be transplanted. The best soil for them is a rich deep loam, on a dry bottom, although they will grow in any soil. They should have some well-rotted manure dug in about them every second or third year. In pruning Gooseberries those intended to produce large fruit for exhibition must have their young wood cut out very thin, and be shortened back about half its length; but others intended to produce heavy crops should have the young wood left its whole length, only thinning out the middle of the tree, and removing any branches that cross close to each other. Few private growers produce such fine Currants as market-gardeners, which is attributable, in a great measure, to the inferior methods of pruning pursued. The best plan is, after the head of the bush is formed, by allowing several main branches to rise at regular distances of six or eight inches from each other, to prune the laterals or side branches produced every year back to one or two eyes; the spurs, if they become very thick, should be thinned out, and the leaders shortened about half their length, first observing the direction of the bud you intend to cut to, which should point outwards; this is of consequence, as it will keep the heart of the bushes open, and must be attended to when shortening back Gooseberries. Those of a pendulous habit must be cut to a bud on the upper side of the branch; and, indeed, in every kind of pruning the direction of the terminal eye is of great importance. Currants can scarcely be pruned too close. As soon as the prunings are collected, burn them, and spread the ashes beneath the bushes. A thin coating of hot lime dug in about the stems is of service against the caterpillars. The branches of Black Currants may be thinned out, but not shortened. Lay in by the heels some of the strongest shoots, if required, for propagation. Top-dress Strawberry-beds with well-rotted dung.

## FLOWERS.

All plants which require protection should be placed in the turf-pit this month, which, by judicious management, will shelter a great number. The pots should stand on a layer of coal-ashes, and if they are plunged the roots will be less affected by the weather; worms will not get in, and water will be seldom necessary; whether this be done or not, water must be given very sparingly, and always on fine mornings, bearing in mind that many plants are sooner injured by damp than by frost, if kept dry. Remove dead leaves from them, and give them all the exposure possible, only excluding frost, rain, and cold winds. Covers of the same size as those used in summer (which must now be stored by) should be prepared to be thatched with straw, over which a layer of fern or long litter may be spread in severe weather.

Bulbs of any kind intended for flowering in the windows during the early spring months, should now be potted. Let the soil be dry, and place the bulbs just deep enough in the pots to admit of their tops being covered. They should be placed in the pit, or plunged in a warm dry situation, and covered six inches deep with sawdust,

ashes, or sand. Any beds intended for Tulips,* Hyacinths, &c. should be prepared early now, or sufficient time for their settling before planting-time will not be allowed. The beds should be 18 inches deep and well drained.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS trained against the cottage should be neatly spread out: those for flowering in the window must have plenty of water.

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS, as Peonies, Iris, Phlox, and Lychnis, may now be divided for increase: in replanting them arrange the kinds according to their height, colour, and time of flowering. Flower-borders, where this is attended to, will assume an appearance of regularity, and present a constant succession of flowers throughout this season.

HOLLYHOCKS and other biennials should now be planted in preference to spring, attending to the last paragraph respecting arrangement.

LOBELIAS.—As Cardinalis and Fulgens sometimes rot during the winter when left out, to avoid this they may now be divided and kept in small pots, or planted thick in larger ones, and protected like Carnations.

ROSES.—The garden kinds may now be pruned and the suckers removed. In pruning, cut back to a good eye two or three inches from the origin of the young wood. Robust-growing kinds should not be pruned so severe as weaker ones: strong shoots pegged down on the surface at nearly their full length, of the Moss Rose for instance, will throw numerous flowering shoots all the way up.

Thrift and other edgings may still be planted. Destroy weeds, and keep the walks and other parts of the garden neat and clean. Protect any choice flowers, as Carnations and Heartsease, from heavy rains.

## NOVEMBER.

THIS is the best month in the year for pruning or transplanting. The pruning of fruit-trees and bushes is sadly neglected in most cottage-gardens, the trees often presenting a complete wilderness of crowded branches, producing in some seasons great numbers of small, worthless fruit, and in others failing entirely; besides, by their impenetrable shade, permitting nothing to grow beneath them. One great cause of these evils is want of pruning; therefore, those who do not understand the principles of pruning will do well to thin out yearly, at this season, the weak spray wood, and removing all branches that cross each other, leaving the trees and bushes regular and uniform, and keeping them open in the centre; for although they do not cut so judiciously as a practised gardener would,

* A mode for preparing Tulip beds will be found in the "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1841, p. 798. Select List of, 1844, p. 386. Properties of, 1845, pp. 369, 383.

they will find, nevertheless, that they have done a great deal of good, which will be apparent in the increased health and fruitfulness of their trees. After standards have become old, this thinning and regulating is all that is required; but pruning should be commenced in the early stage of a tree's growth, for if it becomes necessary to remove large branches the tree suffers by it, and it tells of previous bad management; therefore do not suffer any branches to remain in your young trees which you know it will be necessary to remove hereafter. In pruning dwarf standard Apple-trees, cut back until sufficient shoots are produced to form main branches, which may be trained out to the proper form by placing two hoops of the desired width in the centre of the tree, training the young main branches over on their outside; in the early career of the tree, these young vigorous shoots should not be much pruned back, but only their unripened points removed, always looking at the direction of the eye before the cut is made, as the form of the tree will depend upon this. If this is neglected, perhaps the shoot may grow sideways, or, what is worse, inwardly; therefore, always prune to a bud that points outwardly; this should be attended to in every species of pruning. When your trees have arrived at the desired height, nothing more will be required than to prune the top shoots close off every year, and the side ones to one or two eyes; by which means an abundance of fruit-spurs will soon be formed; and from trees kept thin in this manner the finest fruit is obtained, besides the great advantage of their occupying little room. Dwarf Pears, of some of the best kinds, should also be procured to be trained like pyramids, that is, one straight stem made to throw out numerous side branches up its whole length by yearly heading it back; which side branches are tied down to each other, making them assume a pendent or weeping form; by this means some of the choicer Pears may be grown to great perfection without occupying much space. Pears do not become fruitful if severely pruned, which should, therefore, be confined to thinning out the young branches in July, leaving little to be done now, shortening only in cases where a supply of young shoots is required; but the things on which fruitfulness most depends are their first planting, and after root-pruning when necessary. First, then, in planting, the roots must by no means be buried deeply, and in wet situations, or

retentive clayey soils, they should be rather raised into a little mound above the surrounding surface; the holes should be dug wide, say four feet, and deep enough to admit being partly filled up with stones, brickbats, or some material that will prevent the roots penetrating deep into the subsoil and serve as drainage at the same time; two feet will be sufficient depth of soil. This precaution will contribute to the health of the trees, bring them to a bearing state at a much earlier age, and materially improve the quality of the fruit. The strong tap-roots, if any, should be pruned off at the time of planting, and the others laid out carefully; if, after this, there may seem any disposition in the trees to grow too strong, the roots must be cut off with a sharp spade all round at about a yard from the stem; and any established unfruitful trees may be treated in the same manner, which will cause them immediately to form fruit-buds: by this system a mass of healthy fibrous roots are produced near the stem, enabling you to dig and crop near the trees without injuring them; and any mulching with dung, or watering when necessary, is sure to have the desired effect, from the certainty of the range of the roots. It cannot be too strongly borne in mind in lifting trees, that it is the small roots which chiefly supply nourishment to the plant; too much care cannot, therefore, be taken to preserve them from injury in the removal; and the little additional labour this may cost over removing them carelessly, will probably be repaid by a crop of fruit a season earlier, or, at all events, by success in the operation. Unless the tree is too thick with wood, there is no necessity for removing branches on account of transplanting, or, at least, only as many as may seem equivalent to the loss of roots, which, with care, will be little or nothing. When the trees have begun to grow again, they may be regulated, taking out, or shortening only, the weakest shoots. Now is the most proper time, also, for planting or pruning the Vine: if a young layer is to be planted, the soil should be light and rich, and precautions taken as recommended before to prevent the roots penetrating deep, beyond the sun's influence; for this and badly-drained soil is the main reason of Grapes so often failing to come to maturity out of doors in this climate; the bottom of the border should, therefore, be well drained with broken stones, and about two feet of soil above them, well enriched, for the plant to grow in;

crushed bones, or pounded oyster-shells, are lasting manures, and the light scrapings from a high road will be found an excellent addition. Many authors recommend exciting manures, as bullocks' blood, pigeons' dung, &c., which cause a robust growth; but this is not so valuable as firm, round, short-jointed wood of a moderate strength. What is termed spur-pruning is the best system for outdoor Grapes, that is, leaving only one or two eyes of the last year's wood on the main branches, and a few short rods, four or five eyes each, in situations where it may seem expedient to replace an old shoot, or cut one down at some future time, which should always be considered, as by this means your Vine may be kept furnished with young, healthy, fruit-bearing branches, even where the space intended to be covered is considerable. The young wood at the end of the main stems should not be left too long, as some are apt to leave them, thinking to gain time; or the consequence will be that the lower part of the Vine will become weakened, and its regularity destroyed by the upper eyes breaking strongly, and the lower ones feebly: endeavour rather to have a regular distribution of young wood by short rods throughout the tree without crowding, which is a great fault. The neatest and best plan for training is to carry the main stem horizontally near the ground, into which it may be allowed to dip and root, if the distance it has to go is considerable, taking up from it, at regular intervals, perpendicular main branches. Some of the strongest, straightest, and best-ripened cuttings of Gooseberries and Currants may be planted, previously picking out all the eyes quite clean except three or four of the terminal ones; they may be reduced to about a foot long; by removing a portion of their unripened points and by picking out the eyes, the bushes are prevented from throwing up suckers. Bushes with about one foot of stem look much best, besides, in some measure, assisting to prevent the fruit becoming dirtied by heavy rains. Neither prune nor transplant during frosty weather; dull, mild weather is best. All vacant ground, unless it is very light, should be immediately prepared for future crops; the only objection to preparing light land is, if dung is added in autumn it filters away before spring with the heavy rains; but to other soils autumn preparation is of the greatest benefit. For the main crops of Onions, Carrots, and Parsneps, the ground

should always be prepared in autumn or winter, and the increase of produce and other advantages that are gained by having the soil broken up two spits deep for most vegetables are very great over common digging; of this, nothing will be so convincing as a trial; the best plan to do it, and one which we would strongly recommend in all small gardens, is to bastard-trench the ground, which is performed as follows:—open a trench two feet and a half wide, one full spit and the shovellings deep, and wheel this soil to where it is intended to finish the piece; then dig the bottom spit in the trench, in which the dung and surface of the next trench must be shovelled; then filling up this trench with the top spit, &c., of the second (laying the surface in a ridge) and digging its bottom as before, and so on until the piece of ground is completed: some of the advantages of this plan are, it allows the rain to pass quicker off the surface and the roots to penetrate deeper; and if weeds have been allowed to get large, by paring the surface into each trench first they are effectually buried; the top spit of good soil is also retained uppermost, which, if turned down in some land, years must elapse before that replacing it would equal it; for all crops it amply repays the little additional labour over digging; from the roots penetrating deeper, the crops seldom suffer from drought in summer; strong soils are rendered capable of absorbing more moisture and remaining drier at the surface, and it insures a thorough shifting of the earth. The surface of all strong land should be laid up in ridges during the winter, as the action of frost, by expanding the moisture in it, leaves it, when thawed, in a fine, pulverised, friable, or loosened state, by which it is rendered fertile, and ready immediately after levelling in favourable weather, to receive the intended crop.

## VEGETABLES.

BEANS.—A small sowing of early Lisbon may be made in light earth in a sheltered situation. They should be sown thick, in a small bed, and covered about two inches. After they rise, they must be protected in severe weather by Fern or litter.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS, SAVOYS, and other winter crops, should have the dead leaves gathered off them, and be cleaned between.

CAULIFLOWERS, LETTUCE, CABBAGE, and other young crops, should be kept clean, and free from slugs.

PEAS.—Double-blossomed Frame may be sown close under a fence or wall; covering the surface above the drill with a layer of sand six inches wide, has been practised with success against the attacks of mice.

RHUBARB AND SEA-KALE should have the old leaves cleared from them, and the crown covered with a layer of dung, sand, or some protecting material.

## FRUIT.

Mulch any newly-planted trees with dung or litter; and, if necessary, put stakes to them. Prune and nail any fruit-trees on walls. In pruning Cherries do not shorten the young wood, unless a supply is wanted to fill up a vacancy; but where the shoots are too thick, shorten them back to within an eye or two of their origin.

## FLOWERS.

Keep the plants in the pit, or window, constantly free from dead leaves or any mouldiness; for this, if allowed, will prove to many plants more fatal than severe cold. Give water sparingly, if required at all. Window-plants may be placed out during the middle of fine days, and the pit fully exposed. Any choice herbaceous plants, as Calceolarias or Heartsease, may still be taken up.

DAHLIAS should be taken up very carefully on a fine morning, fixing the labels securely to them; these should either have their merits written upon them, or, what is safer, bear a number referring to a memorandum of their heights, colours, &c. Let them dry gradually, and become perfectly so before they are stored away. The roots may be placed in a shallow box, and covered with dry earth or sand, and put under the stairs, or in any situation which is not damp, and out of the reach of frost. Even in the absence of this convenience, with plenty of dry straw or Fern about them, they may be placed at one end of the Potato-pit; the roots of Marvel of Peru may be treated in a similar manner.

HYACINTHS should be planted the first week, if possible; set them four inches deep, and six apart. They should be protected from heavy rains until they have rooted, with thin turves grass-side downwards, or fern or straw secured with willows. Surround each bulb with a layer of sand; it acts as drainage, and preserves its coats from decaying.

ROSES.—Stocks of the wild Rose should now be obtained from hedges; choosing these with straight stems for budding at any required height next season.

TULIPS must be planted in the first week, if the weather will permit. They are usually planted in seven rows, six inches apart, along a four-foot bed. They should be set from three to four inches deep, and surrounded with sand, in the same manner and for the same reason as recommended for Hyacinths.

This is the proper season for procuring and planting any choice flowering shrubs. The following are a few of the most suitable and showy for small gardens: Scarlet and Yellow-flowering Currants, Red Pyrus japonica, Persian Lilacs, Mock Orange, or Philadelphus coronarius; China Roses, Laurustinus, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Gueldre Rose, Climbing Roses for training (see list), Cydonia japonicus: all these may be obtained at little expense.

## DECEMBER.

THE general operations recommended for November apply also to this month, when the weather permits; trenching, digging, and ridging, may proceed if the

ground is not too wet; in mild weather transplanting and pruning may be performed, and in frosty weather dung may be got on the ground. The evenings may be occupied in making rustic flower-vases or stages; young hazel or other rods may be pointed and tied up in bundles to keep them straight for flower-sticks, shades, labels, hooks for layering, and numerous other little matters of this kind, which if made ready, will save time at a busier season. The store plants in the pit must be kept dry, and have full exposure whenever the weather is fair and not frosty; keep them free from dead leaves or damp litter, and loosen the surface soil in the pots, if it becomes hard or green; take care that all the plants have perfect drainage. If any of the Dahlia tubers appear damp, they should be kept in the dwelling-room for a few days.

## VEGETABLES.

Keep all winter crops free from dead leaves by gathering them off and digging them in when preparing any ground.

ONIONS.—Potato Onions should be planted in deep drills about one foot apart in a light rich soil, any time during the month, when the ground is dry.

## FRUIT.

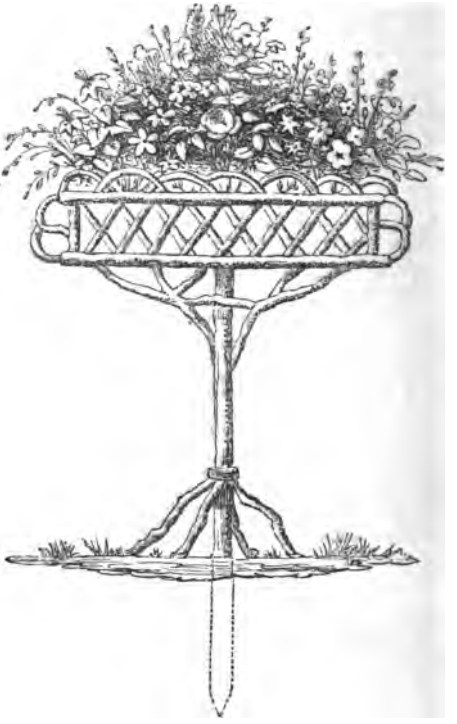
The roots of Vines, Peaches, or Apricots, had better be mulched with dung, if not previously done, to protect them, as intense frost often injures their roots, to the loss of a crop the next season, besides causing weakly and sickly developments.

## FLOWERS.

Cut down any decayed flowers, and dig the borders, taking care not to injure any bulbs. Plants whose hardiness there is any doubt about should have some mulching of light litter or leaves laid round above their roots: if the latter, cover them lightly with soil, to prevent them being blown about. Hydrangeas, Fuchsias, Salvias, tender Roses, and many others, may be preserved in this manner.

## ON RUSTIC VASES SUITABLE FOR COTTAGE GARDENS.

THE introduction of vases even of a rustic character into cottage-gardens will by many be considered a startling proposition; but we can conceive nothing which



would so alter the appearance of a cottage front, or that would tend to give it so elevated a character and so at-

tractive an appearance, as a rustic vase similar to the one represented in the woodcut, if judiciously filled with Pelargoniums, Fuchsias, or Roses in the centre, and surrounded by plants of a drooping habit, allowed to hang over the sides. The vase itself, as the sketch will show, is of the most simple construction, composed entirely of rough sticks, requiring only a little skill to put them together; and if the square shape, which we give as being the simplest, be not approved of, any other may be substituted to suit the taste and fancy of the designer. But one of the form represented, the same length as the width of the window, and placed some distance in front, when filled, would form a beautiful natural screen to the interior of the room, at a time when the window-plants would be out of doors. In November it might be filled with any spare bulbs of similar kinds to those recommended for spring-flowering in the window, and these could be removed before it would be prudent to trust choice plants outside. A layer of moss in the inside will render any further lining unnecessary; and as it parts with moisture slowly, the plants would be less liable to suffer in dry weather; they will, however, require regular and copious waterings. The kind of soil which will be found most suitable is three parts of good turfy yellow loam and one of perfectly rotted dung mixed together.

The following are a few of the most suitable plants for filling the centre of such a vase:—

Pelargoniums of any kinds,
Calceolarias, shrubby kinds,
Fuchsias,
Hydrángea,
Petúnias,
Cinerárias,
China Roses,
Eútoca viscida.

Plants of a dwarf or pendulous habit, suitable for the sides:—

Verbena melindres,
" Tweediana,
Nemóphila insignis,
Mignonette,
Maurándia Barclayana,
Anagallis, all the kinds,
Petúnias,
Nolána paradoxa,
Mimulus moschatus.

Many more might be mentioned, although the plants possessed may be the guide when their heights and habits are known. Any of the more interesting Annuals may be placed round the sides, and such as Schizanthus or Balsam may occupy a portion of the centre.

## ON MANURES.

THE difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of manure* is an excuse often made as an apology for indifferent gardening, whilst many substances of a most enriching and beneficial nature and of easy attainment are overlooked.

In the first place, for strong retentive soils or light sandy porous ones, the materials which will alter their texture and permanently improve them should be the first considered, and these are generally to be obtained if sought after. For strong soils the following will be found very suitable, rendering them easier to work, and the dung which had little or no effect before will then become doubly beneficial. Some of these substances may be mixed with the dung, as road-scrapings, sandy soil, ditch-bottoms, paring of hedge-banks, &c.

ROAD SCRAPINGS from great thoroughfares, when gathered dry; no dressing equals this for strong land intended to grow Carrots and other roots.

LIME, when readily obtained, is exceedingly valuable, sweetening the land, and rendering it more friable, and consequently fertile; but animal manure should not be added at the same time.

OYSTER SHELLS, pounded, are excellent, being similar in their effects to lime, of which they are chiefly composed.

SAND, BURNT CLAY, DITCH BOTTOMS, and any loose vegetable substances, will be found useful.

For very light or sandy soils the following will be found the best:—

MARL or CLAY, which has been previously mixed with dung. This will render the soil adhesive, and prevent the manure being so soon washed down. For such soils cow and pig dung are preferable, they being less readily washed away, retaining their moisture a considerably longer time than most other manures.

Many of the following substances are easily obtained, and are all of great service as manures.

NIGHT SOIL.—This is a powerful manure. It should be laid in alternate layers, with double its bulk of soil, mixing a little quicklime with each layer, which removes its offensiveness. By being turned either in winter or in dry weather, it soon becomes pulverised, and may then be spread on the ground, or mixed with the composts for choice flowers, as Auriculas and Carnations. If some is sown in the drills with Onions, its effects will be very conspicuous. This substance enters largely into the composition of many patent manures.

* A further series of articles on Manures will be found in the "*Gardeners' Chronicle*," 1842, pp. 203, 219, 236, 251, 303, &c.

FOWL DUNG is powerful, like the last. It should be used in a fresh state, mixed with soil, and spread thinly. Rabbits' dung is similar.

SOOT is another powerful manure, and one whose effects become almost immediately visible if kept dry, and sown with the crops of Onions or Turnips, besides being disliked by insects.

PURE DUNG, as that of horses, which is often gathered from public roads by cottagers, should always be mixed with a considerable quantity of soil or the parings of hedge-banks. These, by becoming impregnated with the ammonia from the dung, are equally valuable, besides increasing the bulk. Using the pure dung without doing this would in many cases produce disease; therefore always add a considerable portion of turfy soil to the dung-heap, and let it be well incorporated together before spreading on the ground.

MANURE WATER will be found most beneficial if judiciously applied. For collecting this, a tank or old barrel should be sunk near the dung-heap, that its drainings may run into it. If sheep or deer dung be added, its strength will be increased; but it should only be administered moderately, being so very powerful that some tender plants may be destroyed by overdoses. For out-door crops moist weather should be chosen for administering it. Where a cow or horse is kept, a channel should be made for their urine to run into this tank. The effects of this will be surprising if administered to florists' flowers, prize Gooseberries, root-pruned fruit-trees, or indeed to any plants whose range of roots can be ascertained, and where assistance or robust growth is desirable.

DEAD ANIMALS, OFFAL, &c., should have a portion of quicklime added to them, and be covered with a thick layer of soil, which will become impregnated with soluble matter, and after a season may be spread on the soil.

BONES and HORN.—These are both powerful and lasting substances when crushed. The former have been used unbroken in the soil for a Vine with wonderful effect. They decompose and part with their animal matter so slowly, that they are exceedingly valuable in the formation of rich borders or composts required as permanencies.

FISH.—In some counties these may be obtained in abundance, and are excellent as manure in any state, but are best when dug in, in a fresh state, or covered with soil and spread after a time.

VEGETABLES, as refuse Turnips, Cabbage, and other green crops which can be readily dug in, should not be allowed to decompose first, but be dug in, in a green state. They then commence a gradual decomposition, becoming immediate food for the succeeding crop.

## ON THE CULTIVATION OF FLOWERS IN WINDOWS.

THE cultivation of flowers is of all the amusements of mankind the one to be selected and approved as the most innocent in itself, and most perfectly devoid of injury or annoyance to others. The employment is not only conducive to health and peace of mind, but probably more good-will has arisen and friendships been founded, by the intercourse and communication connected with this pursuit than by any other. The pleasures arising from the culture of flowers are harmless and pure; a streak, a tint, a shade, becomes a triumph, which, though often obtained by a chance, is secured alone by morning care, by evening caution, and the vigilance of days. It is an employ which in its various grades excludes neither the opulent nor the indigent, teems with boundless variety, and affords an unceasing excitement to emulation, without contention or ill-will. There is no other pursuit alike calculated for peer and peasant in which the distinctions are so trivial; for the cottager may possess and enjoy the same beauteous Rose or fragrant Mignonette in his little plot or his window that occupies a place in the garden of the richest. There are few surer tests of a happy home within than the flower-decorated window and neat-kept garden; and there is no occupation for the leisure hours more calculated to keep it so, or to soothe the mind. It yields pleasure without surfeit: the more we advance, the more eager we become. And how unlike this is to most of our worldly engagements! To those parents blessed with children, how delightful it is to bend their young minds to a pursuit so full of utility and intellectual instruction, combined with the advantages usually accompanying industry! and in children carefulness and thought about their plants will lead to the same feelings respecting other matters.

Let me endeavour, therefore, by laying down a few simple rules for the management of flowers in room-windows, to turn the cottager's attention, or that of the female portion of his family, to this pleasing and innocent employment; for it is a subject calculated to give much more real enjoyment at a far less expense than what are usually termed amusements.

The first thing to be attended to is procuring proper plants for the purpose, as there are many which would

defy the skill of the most experienced gardener to keep any length of time in health in such situations; therefore a list of plants is given, the most suitable for the purpose being easily obtained and not difficult to manage. The three principal things requiring consideration are *air*, *light*, and *moisture*.

Plants kept in windows naturally extend their branches and leaves to the light, and they thereby become one-sided; and it is wrong to endeavour to make them otherwise by frequently turning them, as the plants will as constantly turn their growth to follow the light, which not only weakens them, but spoils their appearance. As for plants receiving no perpendicular light, it is more natural to spread them out, forming one good face or tier of healthy foliage to the window; for well-balanced heads under such circumstances are almost out of the question. Place them as near the glass as possible; of course windows having a south aspect possess the greatest advantage.

Judicious watering of plants in rooms is perhaps the most important feature in their management, and it is unfortunately in most cases ill understood, being too often given mechanically as it were at stated times, whether required by the plants or not; and by a too eager desire for their welfare, they are frequently surfeited to death with water, which is justly termed "killing by kindness," and is practised with success, especially by ladies, from a false apprehension of their wants. In summer this cannot be easily accomplished, unless the plants are allowed to stand in saucers constantly filled with water, which, by overloading them with juices, will soon engender sickly soft growths, unsuited for the production of flowers or healthy foliage. An exception to this rule is the growth of annuals in pots during summer; they, if well drained, may stand in feeders; but these, whenever used, should be half-filled with fine gravel or sand, which may be kept in any state of moisture. The best and only general rules that can be adopted are, in *winter* keep plants not then growing fast rather dry; in *spring* increase the quantity with their activity, and the sun's power, keeping them in a medium state of moisture; in *summer* water daily, and in *autumn* decrease with the length of day and the returning torpidity of the plants until the dry state of winter is again reached. All this resolves in the following:—Plants when growing fast may have free supplies of water, which must be lessened as their growths approach maturity, and

cease or nearly so when that is attained until the return of their growing season. As regards *air*, similar rules to those given for watering may be followed; and indeed they are analogous. In *winter*, when the plants are not growing, large supplies of air are not so important, enough being usually given by the room-door. As *spring* advances increase the quantity, carefully guarding against the cold of mornings and evenings, or cutting winds; and if the plants are placed out in the middle of fine days, take care to bring them in before the chill of evening comes on. After the first or second week in May they may be set outside for the *summer*, and towards the end of September, or as soon as heavy cold rains occur, they should be placed again in their quarters for the winter, setting them out of doors when fine, or supplying them with plenty of air by the window, until the cold weather and decrease of moisture at their roots bring them to a state of comparative rest. It should be remembered in spring and autumn that the plants must not go out to-day because they were placed out yesterday, but the weather alone must determine: sudden changes must at all times be avoided. The leaves of plants act as lungs, by which they breathe; if they become dirty, their respiration is impeded; therefore an occasional careful sponging will be useful to them. In spring and summer allow them the full benefit of genial showers, which will do them more good than any artificial watering. Never use spring-water if soft or rain-water can be had; and always let it be about the same temperature as the air in which the plants are growing. It should hardly be necessary to mention the removal of decaying leaves and flowers: the last are exhausting as well as unsightly.

Judgment is required in stopping some plants at proper times to induce bushy growths and increase the flowers, which will be gathered from the various plants treated in the Monthly Calendar.

One principal potting is usually required (see Calendars for April and June), and afterwards as often as the plants may fill their pots with roots or seem to require it. The most important thing is good soil, which if composed of three parts loam of a fibrous open texture, with a fourth dung, most plants will thrive in, using plenty of drainage to allow water to pass off readily. Never suffer the surface-soil in the pots to become hard or moss-grown, but let it be loosened occasionally with a piece of stick.

Although a long list of suitable plants is given, we would not advise too many to be attempted, as nothing looks much worse than a great quantity of crowded unhappy-looking plants, which must be the case if too many are grown, although the turf-built pit recommended for Cucumbers, will in a great measure relieve the windows, enabling many to be grown through the winter, which will only occupy them when in flower. The whole of those mentioned for spring are of this class.

Succulents are well suited for growing in rooms, as they are not so impatient of either air or water as most other plants; and the abundance of their beautiful flowers renders them objects of interest. Cactus speciosus, Jenkinsónii, flagelliformis and speciosíssimus, Mesembryánthemums, and flowering Aloes, deserve especial notice.

Green-fly is apt to infest the young shoots or under sides of the leaves; to destroy them, moisten the infected parts, and dust with Scotch snuff or brush them off as soon as detected with a feather, or dip them in tobacco-water. Fumigation with tobacco will also destroy them.

FLOWERS IN POTS.

*For Spring.*

Snowdrops,
Russian Violets,
Early Tulips,
Crocus,
Narcissus,
Hyacinths,
Heartsease,
Mignonette,
Mimulus moschatus,
Ranunculus,
Anemone,
Myrtle.

*For Autumn.*

Pelargoniums,
Lobélias,
Campánulas,
Sálvias,
Hydrángea,
Verbena,
Fúchsias,
Petúnias,
Calceolárias,
Myrtles,
Heliotrope.

*For Summer.*

Pelargoniums,
Mignonette,
Ten-week Stocks,
China Roses,
Double Wallflowers,
Pinks,
Carnations,
Cactus,
Aloes,
Annuals, as Nemophila, Schizanthus, Collinsia, &c.
Myrtles, Heliotrope.

*For Winter.*

Chrysánthemums,
Pelargoniums,
Heliotrope,
Myrtles,
Fúchsias,
Aloes,
Cactus.

*Creepers suitable for training round the outside of Windows*

Rhodochiton volúbile,
Maurándya Barclayana,
Lophospermum scandens.
Convólvulus major,
Tropæ olum atrosanguíneum.

## SELECT VEGETABLES AND FRUITS.

IN the following list of vegetables and fruits their order in succession may be taken as a guide to their respective merits, when the contrary is not expressed.

BEANS.

1. *Early Lisbon*, for earliest crops.
2. *Early Hangdown.*
3. *Early Longpod.* The most prolific kind.
4. *Johnson's Wonderful.*

BORECOLE.

1. *Tall Green*, or *Scotch Kale.* } Of equal merit, their difference
2. *Dwarf Green*, or *Canada Kale.* } being the height they grow, and the consequent difference in the space required between them.

BROCCOLI.

1. *Early Purple Sprouting.* For first crop.
2. *Dwarf Late Purple.* A more hardy kind than the last, and taking longer time to come to perfection.
3. *Knight's Protecting.* } If room can be spared, these may be
4. *Late Dwarf Tarton.* } grown.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS.—There is only one kind. The best and truest seed is imported; therefore, apply to a respectable seedsman for it.

CABBAGE.

1. *Early York.* Dwarf and early, very suitable for a small garden on account of the little distance apart it requires to be planted.
2. *Vanack.* A valuable spring cabbage; not the earliest, but one of the best.
3. *Early Brompton* } are about equal in merit, being early, head-
4. *Early Battersea* } ing quick, and delicate.
——— *Nonpareil*
5. *Red Dutch*, for pickling.
6. *Sprotsbro'.* A fine early kind.
7. *King of Cabbages.*
8. *British Queen.*

CARROT.

1. *Early Horn*, for first crop.
2. *Altringham*, or *Long Orange*, for main crops.

CAULIFLOWER.

CELERY.

1. *Red Solid*, or *Manchester.* Large and hardy.
2. *White Solid.* Similar to the above in quality, but neither so large nor hardy. May be sown for a first crop.
3. *Godwin's Superb Red.*

CRESS.

*Curled-leaved.* Lasts longer in perfection than the plain-leaved.

CUCUMBER.

*Southgate*, or *Long Green prickly*, will be found easier to manage than newer kinds.

KIDNEY BEAN.

1. *Negro*, for an early crop, as they come in very quickly, but do not last long.
2. *Fulmer's Early*. Suitable also for an early crop, and more prolific than the last.
3. *Cream-coloured*. The best, and should be sown largely.
4. *Dun-coloured*.
5. *Scarlet-Runner Bean*. The seeds should be carefully selected, choosing the darkest marbled ones.

LEEK.

*Broad-leaved London*.

LETTUCE.

1. *Black-seeded Green Cos* is an excellent kind, and does not readily run to seed. It is also very hardy.
2. *Bath Cos* is the best to stand the winter in the open ground.
3. *Brown Dutch Cabbage* is a very hardy good kind.
4. *Grand Admiral* is a very fine Lettuce, and continues a long time without running to seed.
5. *Hammersmith Hardy Green* is the most hardy kind for winter.

MUSTARD, *White*.

ONION.

1. *New White Globe* is the best for main crops.
2. *White Spanish and Brown Portugal* are large kinds for autumn-sowing.
3. *Potato* or *Under-ground Onion* is very mild for eating raw, and very early.

PARSLEY.

*Best Curled*.

PARSNEP.

*Hollow Crowned* is large, hardy, and tender-fleshed.

PEA.

1. *Double-blossomed Frame, Early Emperor, Paragon*, or *Charlton*, for first crop.
2. *Dwarf Blue Imperial* is a productive kind.
3. *Dwarf Blue Prussian* is of equal merit with the last, but rather later.
4. *Knight's Dwarf Green Marrowfat*, an unequalled Pea in every respect, should be sown for late crops.

POTATO.

1. *Ash-leaved Kidney*. Very early, prolific, and fine-flavoured.
2. *Early Manley*. An excellent and prolific kind.
3. *Early Shaw*. Similar to the last. These three are peculiarly adapted to garden-culture, requiring a shorter distance apart than most kinds.
4. *Bread Fruit*. An excellent white dry potato.
5. *Lancashire Pink-eyed*. A mealy good keeping kind and very profitable.

RADISH.

1. *Early Scarlet Short-top* is the best kind.
2. *Scarlet Turnip.*
3. *White ditto.* } Well known and equal in merit.

RHUBARB.

1. *Elford* and *Victoria* for early.
2. *Hybrid* is a strong-growing tender-leaved kind.

SPINACH.

1. *Round-seeded Spinach* for summer.
2. *Flanders* for the winter or main crop. The common Winter Spinach has prickly seeds, but this valuable kind has smooth ones.

TURNIP.

1. *Early Dutch* and *Six-weeks*, if an early crop is desirable.
2. *White Stone*, for autumn and early winter.
3. *Scotch Yellow*, for winter.
4. *Swedish* is a good solid Turnip, and the tops produce excellent Early Greens.

## FRUIT.

APPLES.

1. *Hawthornden.* This Apple has many claims upon the attention of the cottager; it is of a good size, bears at an early age, and so abundantly as to require thinning in some seasons. The tree is not subject to disease, and thrives in almost any situation. It ripens in October, and keeps until Christmas, or longer.
2. *Manks Codlin* in a cottage-garden is a most serviceable fruit, being an abundant bearer; and it may be thinned out for use before the fruit is ripe. Like Hawthornden, it is a hardy healthy tree, thriving in almost any soil, and keeps till November.
3. *Dutch Mignonne.* A delicious, large, and handsome kind. The tree is a good bearer, and the fruit keeps well until March. It is a superior Apple to Golden Reinette, which it resembles.
4. *Kerry Pippin.* An excellent Apple of middle size: the tree is of dwarf growth, and a great bearer. The flesh is yellow, melting, and rich.
5. *King of the Pippins.* This beautiful Apple is very hardy and a great bearer: fruit middle size.
6. *Ribston Pippin* is not surpassed by any, where the soil and situation are suitable. It is subject to canker in stiff wet soils and low situations: it is a good bearer, and continues in perfection until March.
7. *Fearn's Pippin.* This is a very handsome fruit and good bearer, and worthy of a place in any collection. The tree is very hardy. It keeps a long time if packed in sand.
8. *Old Nonpareil.* This excellent table-fruit should find a place in every collection: its dwarf habit renders it suitable for small gardens. When well ripened and packed away in dry sand, they may be kept until they are valuable.
9. *Scarlet Nonpareil.* If a fine loamy soil, with a gravelly subsoil, is possessed, then no Apple becomes so valuable as this. It is a beautiful regular fruit, of a fine red colour next the sun, and almost equals the old kind in flavour, but does not keep quite so long.
10. *Cockle Pippin* makes a handsome dwarf tree, and is a good bearer. The fruit is of a middle size, and frequently keeps till Midsummer. The tree is very hardy.

PEARS—for training on walls, or as dwarf standards.

1. *Jargonelle* is so well known as to require little said of it; it is an early bearer, easily managed, and a delicious fruit. One tree will, however, be enough, unless it be grown for profit. The tree should not be allowed to over-bear.
2. *Marie Louise* will succeed the above, and is in perfection in October. It is somewhat of the same size and shape, very handsome, and the best Pear of its season.
3. *Beurré Diel* is a most hardy tree, and good bearer. The fruit is large, becoming of a russety yellow when ripe, through November and December.
4. *Passe Colmar* is a most prolific bearer, and an excellent Pear. It is hardier than the old Colmar, and in perfection from December to February.
5. *Glout Morceau* is extremely hardy and prolific. It is a good-sized pale-green fruit, in perfection from December until March.
6. *Easter Beurré* is, perhaps, the best of late Pears. It is a late bloomer, and therefore not so liable to suffer from spring frosts. It bears whilst the trees are quite young, and is in use from January to April or May. It should be packed in dry sand.

PLUMS.

1. *Green Gage* needs no comment, as it has always stood in the highest repute, and is well known.
2. *Purple Gage.* An excellent Plum, resembling the Green Gage except in colour. It bears well as a standard.
3. *Coe's Golden Drop.* A splendid Plum and excellent bearer. It has the good quality of hanging a long time on the tree, becoming almost dried, sugary, and delicious.
4. *Early Orleans* is an excellent bearer, and an improvement upon the well-known old kind.
5. *Blue Imperatrice* is well known in gardens, a good bearer, becomes shrivelled and exceedingly rich; may be kept until November.

CHERRIES.

1. *May Duke.* Its merits are well known; it bears the knife well, and produces fruit freely on dwarfs.
2. *Morello* is a valuable fruit. It may be trained against a shady wall, or as a dwarf standard; is an abundant bearer. In pruning, the branches, being slender, are apt to be left too thick, which is a great fault. The fruit is borne from the young wood of the last year, which should be remembered at the time of pruning.
3. *Late Duke.* An excellent late Cherry as a standard.
4. *Bigarreau.* Well known for its merits, but requires space; and its large foliage and drooping branches render it impossible to grow anything under it.

GOOSEBERRIES.

1. *Red Warrington.* Keeps late; a great bearer; of a good size and rich flavour. It is a strong grower.
2. *Rombullion* is the best and most profitable for preserving, or for wine-making.
3. *Pitmaston Green Gage* is a late variety surpassed by none.
4. *Red Champagne*, an upright-growing bush, producing middle-sized fruit, unequalled in point of flavour.
5. *Yellow Champagne*, similar to the last, except in colour.

*The following are a few of the largest prize Berries :*

6. *Massey's Heart of Oak* is a prize Berry, but not of the largest; its other merits, however, entitle it to a first place.
7. *Woodward's Whitesmith* is an upright grower, a good bearer, and of excellent flavour.
8. *Taylor's Bright Venus* deserves a place equally with the latter.
9. *Farmer's Roaring Lion.* One of the largest and latest; it is of a drooping habit, often requiring to be supported by forked sticks.
10. *Brotherton's Huntsman.* A large globular rich fruit. When grown as a prize fruit it is apt to crack in wet weather, which is its only fault.

CURRANTS.

*Red Dutch, White Dutch, Red* and *White Grape*, and *Black Naples* are the best.

RASPBERRIES.

1. *Red Antwerp.*
2. *Yellow Antwerp.*
3. *Fastolff.*
4. *Victoria.*

STRAWBERRIES.

1. *Keen's Seedling* is, perhaps, the best for a cottager, being a most prolific handsome fruit, although there are some others superior in flavour.
2. *Old Pine.* If the soil is loamy and rich, this kind is not surpassed; being a stronger grower, it requires more room than the last.
3. *Elton* is a fine late kind, and a freer bearer; raised and approved by Mr. Knight, the greatest modern horticulturist, which is a sufficient guarantee of its merits.
4. *British Queen.* The best late one known.
5. *Myatt's Mammoth.* A very large fruit, with good flavour.

GRAPES.

1. *Miller's Burgundy.* A hardy black Grape, easily distinguished from other kinds by its mealy looking leaves.
2. *New White Sweetwater.* An excellent early white Grape.
3. *Esperione.* A fine early, large black Grape.

## SELECT FLOWERS

In the following alphabetical list of flowers, we have given in the first column the English or popular name; in the second column, the height they grow; in the third column, the colour of their flowers; and in the fourth, their season of flowering. No annual flower should be sown, nor any plant permanently placed, without first ascertaining these particulars, after which something like arrangement may be attempted as regards the proper position for each in the borders or beds. Of height nothing need be said, except that the dwarfest should be placed nearest the edges; but respecting colour, the simple fact that some colours being placed near each other have a better and more harmonious effect than others, will at once be admitted; and we recommend particular attention to this. The principal things to be avoided are—the placing of rose-coloured or red flowers next scarlet or orange, or orange next yellow, blue next violet, or rose next violet; on the contrary, the following colours harmonise:—white will relieve any colour, but should not be placed next yellow, orange with light blue, yellow with violet, dark blue with orange yellow, white with pink or rose, lilac with yellow; by observing these rules the cottager may have his flower-borders vie in beauty and arrangement with those of greater pretensions, and even surpass many of them. The season of flowering with annuals will, of course, vary accordingly as they are sown, but the earliest period of their flowering is given if they are sown out of doors.

## ANNUALS, OR PLANTS OF ONE YEAR'S DURATION.

| *English Name.* | *Height.* | *Colour.* | *Season of Flowering.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | f. i. | | |
| Chinese Aster | 2 0 | Various | July to Sept. |
| Prince's Feather | 2 0 | Crimson | June to Sept. |
| Love lies Bleeding | 2 0 | Crimson | June to Sept. |
| Sweet Sultan | 1 6 | Lilac | July to Oct. |
| Yellow Sultan | 1 6 | Yellow | July to Oct. |
| Corn-flower or Blue-bottle | 2 0 | Blue & var. | June to Sept. |
| Garden Chrysanthemum | 2 0 | Yell. & white | July to Oct. |
| Pretty Clarkia | 1 6 | Reddish-pink | May to Oct. |
| White | | White | May to Oct. |
| Two-coloured Collinsia | 1 6 | Blue & white | May to Oct. |
| Large-flowered do. | 1 0 | Blue | May to Oct. |
| Dwarf Bind-weed | 1 0 | Various | June to Oct. |
| Tall do. | 1 2 | Blue | June to Oct. |
| Two-coloured Coreopsis* | 2 0 | Yell. & blood | July to Oct. |
| Rocket Larkspur | 1 0 | Various | July to Oct. |
| Clammy Eutoca* | 2 0 | Blue | June to Oct. |
| Three-coloured Gilia* | 1 2 | Lilac, purple, and white. | May to Oct. |
| Milfoil-leaved do.* | 1 0 | Purple | May to Oct. |
| Headed do.* | 2 0 | Blue | May to Oct. |
| Pretty Godetia | 1 0 | Pink | May to Sept. |
| Elegant Gypsophila | 1 0 | White & pink | May to Sept. |
| African Hibiscus | 1 6 | White & purp. | July to Sept. |
| Candy-tuft | 1 0 | Divers | July to Sept. |
| Amellus-like Kaulfussia | 0 6 | Blue | July to Sept. |
| Californian Lasthenia | 1 0 | Yellow | May to Sept. |
| Sweet Pea | 6 0 | Divers | May to Oct. |
| Androsace-like Leptosiphon | 0 6 | Various | May to Oct. |
| Cluster-flowered do. | 0 6 | Purple | May to Oct. |
| Douglas's Limnanthes | 1 0 | Yell. & white | May to Oct. |
| Two-coloured Lupine | 0 6 | Blue & white | May to Sept. |
| Large Rose do. | 2 6 | Rose | June to Sept. |
| Yellow do. | 2 6 | Yellow | June to Sept. |
| Large-flowered Malope | 2 0 | Crimson | June to Sept. |
| Ten-week Stock | 1 0 | Divers | June to Sept. |
| Showy Nemophila* | 0 6 | Blue | May to Sept. |
| Speckled do.* | 0 6 | White & spot. | May to Sept. |
| Two-faced Evening Primrose | 1 0 | Purp. & prim. | May to Sept. |
| Red and white do. | 1 0 | Red & white | May to Sept. |
| Four-winged do. | 1 0 | White | June to Sept. |
| Poppy | 2 0 | Various | June. |
| Californian Platystemon | 1 0 | Yellow | May. |
| Mignonette | 0 6 | Straw-colrd. | All the year. |
| Schizanthus | 2 0 | Lilac-purple | June. |
| Groundsel | 2 0 | Purple | June. |
| French Marigold | 1 6 | Striped, yellow & red | July. |
| African do. | 1 6 | Yell.-orange | July. |
| Dark-eyed Catchfly | 1 0 | White-red | July. |

Those marked with an asterisk in the above list will, if sown in September, stand the winter, unless very severe, and will then flower earlier and stronger than when sown in the spring. The following list comprises some of the most suitable and showy permanent plants for a small garden; those marked with an asterisk should be treated as directed for biennials; all may be increased by division of the roots or seeds, which can be procured for a trifling sum:—

| *English Name.* | *Height.* | *Colour.* | *Season of Flowering.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | f. i. | | |
| Yellow Madwort | 0 6 | Yellow | May & June |
| Hollyhock* | 8 0 | Various | July to Oct. |
| Garland Poppy Wind-flower | 0 6 | Various | May to Sept. |
| Large Snap-dragon | 2 0 | Various | June to Oct. |
| Amellus-like Starwort | 2 0 | Blue | July, Sept. |
| Pyramidal Bell-flower | 5 0 | Blue & white | July, Sept. |
| Canterbury bells* | 2 0 | Blue & white | June, Sept. |
| Garden Wall-flower | 2 0 | Orange and brown | |
| Californian Chryseis* | 1 0 | Yellow | May to Oct. |
| Orange-colored do. | 1 0 | Orange | May to Oct. |
| Showy Cineraria | 2 0 | White & purp. | June & Sept. |
| Bee Larkspur | 5 0 | Blue | June to Oct. |
| Large-flowered do. | 2 0 | Blue | June to Sept. |
| Superb Pink* | 1 0 | Various | June to Sept. |
| Sweet William do.* | 2 0 | Various | June to Sept. |
| Carnation do. | 2 0 | Various | July to Sept. |
| Many-flowered Eutoca* | 1 6 | Pink | June to Sept. |
| Two-coloured Gaillardia | 2 0 | Yellow & red | June to Aug. |
| Large-flowered Avens | 2 0 | Scarlet | July to Sept. |
| Double Purple Rocket | 1 0 | Purple | June to Aug. |
| Double White do. | 1 0 | White | June to Aug. |
| Scarlet Lobelia | 3 0 | Scarlet | June to Sept. |
| Many-leaved Lupine | 2 0 | Blue | June to Oct. |
| White-flowered | 2 0 | White | June to Oct. |
| Shining Lychnis | 2 0 | Scarlet | June to Sept. |
| Brompton Stock | 2 0 | Various | June to Aug. |
| Musk-scented Monkey-flower | 0 6 | Yellow | May to Sept. |
| Scarlet do. | 2 0 | Scarlet | May to Sept. |
| Grand-flowered do. | 1 0 | Spotted | May to Sept. |
| Handsome Evening Primrose | 3 0 | White | July to Sept. |
| Missouri do. | 1 0 | Yellow | June to Sept. |
| Oriental Poppy* | 2 6 | Scarlet | June to Sept. |
| Dark Red Pentstemon | 1 0 | Dark red | June to Sept. |
| Beautiful Cinquefoil | 1 0 | Purple | June to Aug. |
| Dark Bloody do. | 1 0 | Purple | June to Aug. |
| Heartsease | 0 6 | Various | May to June |

The most suitable plants, next to the Vine, for covering a cottage, are climbing Roses, as Boursault and De Lisle, upon which other kinds may be budded, any sorts of Jasmine or Honeysuckle, Glycine sinensis, and the Blue Passion-flower; but for a north or damp wall nothing equals Ivy, which is not only always green, but will soon dry the wall.

## VEGETABLE COOKERY, &c.

In preparing vegetables for cooking, care should be taken first to thoroughly wash them. Cauliflower, Cabbage, Spinach, &c., should remain some time in cold water, in which a handful of salt has been dissolved; this will cause insects to leave them, however close their hearts may be; rain-water should be used to boil them if it can be procured, as many kinds of hard water will spoil the colour of greens: another important thing is to have the water boiling when they are put in, remove them from the fire the moment they are done, and drain the water well from them.

Broad Beans may be boiled with bacon or pickled pork until they are tender; but it is objected by many to boil them together, as the colour of the beans is affected by the meat. If the beans are boiled alone, a bunch of Parsley must be put in with them, to be chopped and served in their sauce, which is composed of a little flour and water, with a bit of butter, boiled together.

Beans, Kidney.—First string them, that is remove the tough thread-like part that unites the backs and fronts of the pods; then cut them in four, lengthwise, and put them into the water, which must be boiling, with a little salt. Kidney beans are pickled just in the same manner as Cucumbers.

Kidney Beans may be preserved for use throughout the winter, by gathering them on a dry day, cutting them in the same manner as for cooking, and placing them in a large jar, with alternate layers of beans and salt, until the jar is full, then tie a piece of paper over the top, and set the jar in a dry, airy place.

Beans, Scarlet, are cooked precisely as the above.

Beet-Root is a very wholesome and nutritious vegetable. Before boiling wash clean, but do not cut or break the roots. Boil from three-quarters of an hour, to an hour and a half, according to the size of the roots. Then pare, and cut into slices; it is excellent to either hot or cold meat. Pour a little vinegar over what remains, and it forms a nice mild pickle, but will not keep more than ten days or a fortnight.

Broccoli.—When the stalks appear hard, the tough outer skin should be peeled off. If the small sprouts or shoots are tied in a bunch, they are quicker removed from the water when done; they require particular watching, as they will fall in pieces if over-boiled. Some salt must be put into the water with them.

Cauliflower should lie in salt and water an hour before theyare

put in to boil. They then require to be washed closely, and boiled like Broccoli; the water they are boiled in should be skimmed of any impurities previously to taking the heads out, or their appearance will be spoiled. Cauliflowers are pickled in exactly the same manner as Cabbage, with the exception of Beet-Root for colouring.

CABBAGE, Brussels sprouts, Borecole, and other greens, are cooked in a similar manner to Cauliflowers and Broccoli.

CABBAGE, RED, makes an excellent pickle. Shred the heart of a Cabbage in thin slices into a colander, sprinkle a layer of salt over each layer of Cabbage, let it drain for two days, and then put it into a stone jar, with a slice of Beet-Root. Boil as much vinegar as will cover it, add a handful of peppercorns, a little ginger and allspice, and then pour the vinegar over the Cabbage. When cold, tie it safely down with bladder.

CELERY is usually eaten raw with bread and cheese, or to flavour soups; but if a few heads are cleaned and cut into pieces four or five inches long, and stewed tender, serving them with a little milk, flour, and butter, seasoning them with pepper and salt, they are delicious.

CARROTS are usually boiled with salt beef or pork, and in broths or soups; in either case they require a good deal of boiling, and should be first scraped.

CUCUMBERS possess little nourishment as food, yet in the form of pickles they give a nice relish to a cold dinner in summer. They are also very good if peeled, cut into slices, and covered with salt for a little time; when this salt brine is poured off, add vinegar and pepper according to taste.

GHERKINS, OR SMALL CUCUMBERS, TO PICKLE.—Lay them in salt and water for five days, then on a sieve to drain, afterwards put them in a clean iron or bell-metal saucepan, with a layer of vine-leaves betwixt each layer of Gherkins; when all are put in, spread over the surface a good layer of salt, and a cupful or more of vinegar, according to the quantity to be pickled; fill the pan with cold spring-water, and set it near the fire, where the liquid will simmer but not boil. They will then after a short time become green, which when observed take them out, rinse in clean water, dry with a cloth, put in jars and pour boiling vinegar over them. The next day, pour off the vinegar, re-boil it, and again pour it over them; also repeat this on the third day, when ginger and peppercorns should be added. Keep the jars covered, and after a day or two tie them safely down with bladder.

LEEKS are exceedingly wholesome, and used in broths and soups in the same manner as Onions.

MUSHROOMS TO PICKLE.—Take the small button Mushrooms, wash in cold water, separate the stalks, and then rub them with salt, put them in vinegar, with allspice, ginger, mace, and a little whole pepper; give them a slight boil, then put in jars or bottles, and when cold cover safely down for use.

MUSHROOM KETCHUP.—Wipe the Mushrooms, lay them in a dish, and on every three handfuls spread a handful of salt; when well dissolved pour the whole into a large saucepan, and let the liquor simmer for a short time over a slow fire. Strain, and boil again with allspice, peppercorns, shallots, and horseradish, then strain into a jar, and when cold, cork it safely, and tie bladder over the corks.

MUSHROOMS are also very nice, if peeled, and boiled in water with a little flour, pepper, salt, and a bit of butter or dripping.

ONIONS, as is well known, are not only savoury, but exceedingly nutritious, and used in ways too numerous to mention here; but weakly persons should never eat them raw or fried. Large ones

stewed for two hours gently in a little broth, having been first fried brown and dusted with flour, when seasoned with salt and pepper, are nourishing: large ones are also very nice when roasted with their skins on, and eaten with salt and butter.

ONIONS TO PICKLE.—Lay them for a short time in scalding water, then take off the outer skins, dry with a cloth, and put in the bottles, with some peppercorns and allspice. Boil some vinegar, when half cold pour it over them, and after a few hours cork up the bottles, and tie them safe with bladder.

PARSNEPS.—This vegetable is not esteemed by the cottager as its value entitles it, being exceedingly nutritious and profitable. After they are scraped cut them down the middle, and boil them tender. They may either be served whole, or mashed with a little milk and butter, adding pepper and salt.

PEAS.—This popular vegetable is considered nourishing. They should not be boiled in too much water, but just enough to cover them, taking care not to overdo them. A bunch of Mint or Savory should be boiled with them, and afterwards chopped and stirred with a piece of butter among them. This is said to remove their tendency to create flatulence. If gathered green and dried, they are much better for soup than when left to become ripe.

POTATOES.—It is well known that a good Potato may be spoiled by bad cooking, and by good management a bad one may be rendered comparatively good. In fact, no vegetable depends more on the cooking than a Potato. In the first place, if the skin is taken off them before boiling, it should not be peeled, but scraped, for the following reason; if peeled, it is reduced in size considerably; besides, the outside removed is the very best portion of the root. An iron saucepan is preferable to a tin one for cooking them, as it prevents their boiling so fast; but the best way is, first, to wash them very clean, then put them on the fire with just cold water enough to cover them; when it has begun to boil, throw in a handful of salt, and add a pint of cold water, which checks their boiling, and gives them time to be done through without allowing them to crack; as soon as done rather under than over, which may be ascertained with a fork, pour the water off them, and replace the pan on the fire for a short time, until the remaining moisture is evaporated. If not immediately wanted, do not place the lid upon them, or the steam will be confined, but cover them with a cloth; new Potatoes require great caution not to overboil them, or they will be tasteless and watery.

POTATOES TO MASH should be boiled first as above, then peeled; afterwards break them smooth, adding a little milk and salt; a piece of butter or beef-dripping will improve them greatly.

POTATOES TO ROAST should be of the largest size, and be first half boiled, then have the thin skin peeled off, and afterwards be roasted of a fine brown colour.

POTATOES, when left cold, may be fried in a little thin batter or dripping, and are excellent.

RHUBARB makes excellent puddings and pies; the leaf-stalks are cut into small pieces, as with Apples; sweeten with sugar or treacle. The Victoria is the best for the purpose.

SEA-KALE.—The heads should be tied together and lie in cold water an hour, then be put in boiling water, adding a little salt, and well boiled, and afterwards drained dry. A slice of toasted bread is usually placed on the dish under them, and a sauce made of a little milk, flour, and butter, poured over them.

SPINACH, though not very nutritious, is cooling and wholesome, and may be eaten when other vegetables would be improper food; it

requires no water to boil in, except what remains attached to the leaves, after rinsing, adding a little salt when done; and the water drained off, a little butter may be beaten with it.

TURNIPS are good vegetables for boiled meat. Wash, peel, slice, and boil them until quite soft, then mash with a little butter, pepper, and salt.

## FRUIT COOKERY, &c.

APPLES are made into puddings, pies, jellies, and are also used as sauces for pork, and some other sorts of meat.

APPLE DUMPLINGS are made by putting about four ounces of chopped beef-suet, or two ounces of dripping or lard, into eight ounces of flour, and adding as much water, and a little salt, as will make it into a stiff paste. Roll it out large enough to hold the Apples, which must be pared and cut into quarters; fold the paste over them, tie in a pudding-cloth, and boil for an hour and three-quarters. Sweeten either with treacle or sugar.

APPLE PIES are made by cutting the Apples into a dish, and covering the top with some of the paste rolled out as above. Currants, Gooseberries, Plums, and any other kinds of fruit may be used instead of Apples.

APPLE PUDDING BAKED.—Rub the bottom and sides of the pie-dish with suet or butter, put a layer of bread crumbs, and upon these a layer of Apples cut into quarters, then another layer of bread, and another of Apples, continuing until the dish is filled, having the top layer one of bread. Sprinkle the surface with brown sugar, melt some butter or lard in a little water or milk, and pour it over. Bake for an hour in a slow oven.

CURRANTS, besides being used for puddings and pies, are made into Jams and Jellies.

CHEAP FRUIT PUDDING.—A good roll pudding may be made as follows:—Prepare a nice light paste, roll it out thin, then spread some treacle and a few currants over it, or a little blackberry jam, roll it up, and put a cloth round it, and boil for one or two hours, according to the size.

CURRANT JAM.—This may be either made of Black or Red Currants. To each pound of fruit add three-quarters of a pound of sugar, boil for one hour, and keep the syrup well stirred. Pour it into preserve pots, and when cold cover it with paper and tie it safely down, with bladder on the outside.

RASPBERRY AND STRAWBERRY JAMS are made in the same way as with Currants, except that they only require boiling half an hour instead of an hour.

GRAPES, on the walls, when they do not ripen well, may be made into wine. Bruise the fruit into a pulp, lay it in a small quantity of water for twenty-four hours, then strain through a hair sieve, and to every gallon of this juice add two gallons of water, and to every gallon of the liquor add three pounds of sugar. Either barrel it directly, or leave it till the next day, cork it safe and place it in the cellar. In six months rack it off, and add either a small quantity of brandy or foreign wine.

BLACKBERRY JAM.—To every pound of fruit, well bruised, add a half-pint of water and half a pound of coarse moist sugar, boil for three-quarters of an hour in a common saucepan, over a slow clear fire. It is much improved, if, when sufficiently done, the juice of one or two lemons is squeezed into it.

BLACKBERRY JAM, ANOTHER METHOD.—Put a quantity of blackberries, not fully ripe, into a stone jar, and place it in a pan of water,

set the pan on the fire, and let the water simmer for six hours; then pour the fruit into a saucepan, and to every pint of fruit add a pint of water, and a pound of coarse sugar; boil until of a proper consistence, squeeze in the juice of a lemon, then pour into pots in the usual manner.

ELDER WINE.—Pick the elder berries from the stalks, and to every gallon of fruit, add one gallon of water, having first mashed the fruit, let this liquor stand, and macerate three days, then put them into a large pan or copper to boil; when the fruit is boiled an hour, until quite soft, strain the liquor through a sieve, and to every gallon add three pounds of moist sugar, some cloves, allspice, and ginger, and boil for three-quarters of an hour, pour into a puncheon or pot, and when new milk warm, toast a piece of bread, cover it with yeast, and put it in the liquor, and allow it to work for a day or two, then put it into a barrel, or bottles, leaving them open for awhile, until the violence of the working has subsided; afterwards fasten up. It is fit to drink in a month.

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M. SOYER'S ECONOMICAL SOUPS.—No. 1 is as follows: "Put one ounce of dripping into a saucepan capable of holding two gallons of water, with a quarter of a pound of leg of beef without bones, cut into square pieces of about half an inch, and two middling sized onions, peeled and sliced. Set the saucepan over a fire and stir the contents round for a few minutes, until fried lightly brown. Add the peeling of two turnips, green leaves or tops of celery, and two leeks, cut into small pieces. Then add half a pound of common flour, and half a pound of pearl barley, mixing all well together. Add two gallons of water, three ounces of salt, and a quarter of an ounce of brown sugar, and allow all to simmer gently for three hours. The cost of this Soup will be as follows: ¼lb. leg of beef, at 4*d.* per lb., 1*d.*; 2 oz. of dripping, ½*d.*; 2 onions and other vegetables, 1*d.*; ½ lb. seconds flour, ¾*d.*; ½lb. pearl barley, 1½*d.*; 3 oz. salt, ½ oz. sugar, ¼*d.*; fuel, 1*d.*: total cost for the two gallons, 6*d.*

ECONOMICAL SOUP.—No. 2.—Take the fat, meat, onions, and other vegetables exactly as recommended for Soup No. 1; to these add one quart of water, and one pound of maize, and let them boil twenty minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent burning. Then add six more quarts of water, put in salt as above, and let the whole simmer for one hour, skim lightly, and it is ready for use.

CHEAP SOUP.—Take half a pint of peas, half a pound of rice, half a pound of beef or other meat, six onions, some herbs, salt, pepper, and four quarts of water. Boil for three hours over a slow fire.

POTATOE PIE.—Peel and slice as many potatoes as are required, slice them thin, and put them in a pie-dish, mix sliced onions, a few slices of bacon or other meat, or in the absence of meat, a small piece of dripping, and season with pepper and salt.

SHEEP'S HEAD SOUP.—Skin and split the head, take out the brains, and soak them in water for several hours; put the head in a gallon of water, add onions, carrots, and turnips, and boil over a slow fire. When the head is done, take it out, thicken the broth with oatmeal, and season with pepper and salt. Boil the brains separately, in a small saucepan, and when done chop them up with a little boiled sage, and butter and salt.

MIXED SOUP.—Take one pound of beef, cut into small pieces, one pint of split peas, one pound of potatoes, quarter of a pound of rice, and one gallon of water, add onions, celery pepper and salt to suit the taste. Let the whole simmer until the peas are quite tender.

MIXED STEW.—Put half a pint of split peas, some sliced beet root, onions, lettuce, and cucumbers, into a stew-pot, with sufficient water to cover them well, and add a small portion of butter, pepper, and salt; set the pot in the oven, and allow the vegetables to stew until they are quite tender, then add a few slices of cold mutton, lamb, or veal, and boil the whole for about a quarter of an hour.

MEAT WHEN TAINTED, TO RESTORE.—Wrap the meat in a clean cloth, made secure that no dirt can get to it, then take a fire shovel full of charcoal or live coal from the fire, and pour them into a bucket of clear water, put in the meat, and let it remain for five minutes, and it will become free from smell. It should then be cooked immediately.

TO MAKE PIKELETS.—Put half a pint of milk and half a pint of water into a saucepan, with a bit of butter, a lump of sugar, and a little salt; set it on the fire, and stir it until little more than new milk-warm, then beat up two eggs, and add to the milk, also about a table-spoonful of new yeast, pour the liquid into a jug or pan, much larger than is necessary to hold the mixture, stir in one pound of flour, and let it stand before the fire to work; when it has well risen, bake over a slow fire, pouring a small quantity on the baking iron at a time.

PEA SOUP.—Take about half a pound of bacon and cut it in small pieces, two quarts of water, one pint of split peas, one or two nice carrots, two turnips, and two onions; cut all into small pieces; set them on, or by the fire, and let the soup simmer until the peas are quite tender; season with pepper and salt according to taste.

EGGS, TO PRESERVE.—Take any quantity of fresh eggs, and bury them upright in salt; by this means they will keep good for a year.

## ON PREPARING ARTICLES FOR EXHIBITION.

THE most important things to be attended to in preparing florists' flowers for exhibition, are to shade them from violent sunshine, and protect them also from heavy rains; in the absence of a canvass awning, the readiest means of accomplishing this will suggest themselves according to the circumstances of the possessor. Easy methods have been described for Dahlias and Pinks, or Carnations, and for Heartsease similar means may be adopted. Protecting them from the ravages of insects is best accomplished by watchfulness and diligence in destroying them. Beds of Heartsease and other dwarf flowers may also have an occasional watering with clear lime-water. What is termed the *dressing* of flowers for exhibition, except the withdrawal of a blemished or run petal in a Pink or Carnation, is only a species of trickery, and unworthy of notice.

Let EVERYTHING be perfectly clean.

VEGETABLES, as Cabbage, Cauliflower, &c., should be sent with all their leaves, except any damaged or decaying ones.

Roots, as Carrots, Turnips, or Parsneps, should not have their tops removed or roots shortened, but be shown entire, and washed very clean; Celery the same.

For Fruit nothing is required except placing the requisite number to make a dish neatly upon plates. Apples and Pears may be wiped with a soft flannel; but any artificial blooming of Plums, Cucumbers, or Grapes, is unworthy, and generally detected.

## PIGS.

The best sort to purchase is a spayed sow: it should be bought early in the spring, or rather late in the autumn; it should then be not less than four months old, six would be better; and if a boarmer, a year old is still better. The best breed is the small Essex, the Suffolk, or the Berkshire, with a cross of the Chinese, as the latter is disposed to fatten in an expeditious manner. The largest sort is the most profitable, because there is growth and fatting going on at the same time. Pigs at the above ages will eat Cabbage-leaves, Mangel-wurzel, Swedish Turnips, the refuse of the garden, &c., and until they are put up to fat, they should have plenty of clean fresh water, at least thrice a day (in hot weather) and at the same time a few Beans strewed amongst the litter in the yard, which should be kept very clean by frequently adding small quantities of fresh straw. If colour deserves consideration, the light sandy and yellow spotted are to be preferred, as their skins appear the most delicate when dead.

When you first begin to feed in the sty (obtain a trough called "a witch *") do it by degrees, introducing into their food for the first five or six days as much powdered sulphur and as much powdered antimony as will lie on a shilling (for each pig) which will effectually cleanse them; but if you feed high all at once, the pig or hog is apt to surfeit, and then a great loss of food takes place. Put up two together, for they feed best in company; and they should be rung when first put up, otherwise they will not be quiet. Peas or Barley-meal is the best food; the former certainly for a boarmer, but the latter does its work quicker; and with every mess afterwards salt should be rather freely introduced. In cold weather the food should invariably be given lukewarm, the pigs should be kept very clean; and although they are proverbially dirty, and fond of wallowing in mud and mire, yet it is a great mistake not to keep them scrupulously clean, for uncleanliness will be almost certain to bring on one or other of the skin-disorders to which they are so liable, and the irritation thence produced will injure their appetite, and prevent them from improving in condition. Should any eruption appear, a little sulphur and madder may be advantageously mixed with their food. The author has been told by an experienced Norfolk farmer, that he put up six pigs of nearly equal size or weight at the same time, and treated them in every respect the same as to food and litter for seven weeks. Three of them were left to shift for themselves as to cleanliness, the others were kept as clean as possible with comb and hard brush†. The last consumed in seven weeks fewer peas by five bushels

* A witch is a trough having a hanging lid, which the animal presses open when it eats, and which falls back when it withdraws its head, and thus keeps the food from being defiled.

† If not combed and brushed, a post should be placed in the sty for the animal to rub and clean itself against.

than the other three, yet weighed more when killed by two stone and two pounds upon the average. Pigs should be regularly fed at least thrice a day, and their troughs should be well cleaned each time. Why they should be so fed is that they may be constantly in a state of rest, as in that case they fat in a more expeditious manner. It is constantly asserted that they will fat faster on dry food, giving them water half an hour afterwards. Corn-fed pork is the best, Peas, Barley, or Oats. The Bean and Acorn-fed pork are both hard, and the Potatoe-fed (in the usual way) is very loose (a waste of about 3 ozs. in the pound). A porker will eat four or five pecks of common meal per week, in fatting; and a baconer (in proportion to its size) upwards of a bushel per week; by all means make the latter quite fat, because lean bacon is the most wretched, unprofitable thing which any family can use. A porker should be fatted in the course of a month or six weeks at the longest, and a baconer in ten or twelve weeks. A pig or hog should have no food the day before killing. It is frequently observed in fatting hogs, that they pay better for their keep in the latter part than in the early part of their fatting.

Baked (roasted) potatoes are the most excellent food for pigs. The pork produced was equal to that from Barley or Oats, and the roasted or baked Potatoes (considering the improvement of the hogs) is the cheapest food that can be given them. Roast the Potatoes on a kiln like to that used by Oatmeal-sellers for drying their Oats. The difference in expense between roasting and boiling the Potatoes is prodigious, with regard to both labour and fire. A kiln costs only 3*l*., and will roast potatoes enough for more than 20 hogs. The fire, by dissipating juices that are contained in raw Potatoes, reduces them to a state highly wholesome and nutritious; boiling does this in part, but not so effectually.

When the hog has been killed, the first thing to be done is to get the hair off. Scalding and shaving is the common method; but as it makes the meat loose and flabby, singeing, as practised in Hampshire, is much preferable.

It must be admitted that the hog is altogether a most capital thing in a poor man's cottage; inasmuch as bacon, either cold or hot, goes to the field or coppice conveniently. In harvest, and other busy times it demands to be boiled only once a week, has twice as much strength in it as any other meat of the same weight, and, in short, has in it every good quality which tends to make a labourer's family able to work and be well off. One pound of bacon, such as here described, is, in such a family, worth at least two pounds of ordinary beef or mutton (which they usually buy), a great part of which is bone, and, in short, is gone in a few minutes; but recollect, that good fat bacon is the very best of all animal food for the labourer.

The hog should be purchased in the month of March, four months old, which can then be generally done for about 15*s*. The cost till fatting time is next to nothing to a cottager; and then the cost (at the present price of corn) would, for a hog of 20 to 25 stone, not exceed perhaps 60*s*., and in the whole from 80*s*. to 84*s*. Let the poor man recollect that a pot of poison a week bought at a public-house comes to 26*s*. of the money; and more than three times the remainder is generally flung away upon miserable tea, which, if laid aside, the labourer might supply his family well with beer all the year round, and have a hog of the above weight for the cost.

N.B. If a pig or hog is ill, give it a strong dose of Glauber salts and jalap in warm gruel; repeating it every three hours till it is restored.

When the hams have lain three days, rub them with an ounce of

saltpetre each; and when they have lain a week from the time of killing the pig, lay them in the following pickle:—1 lb. of bay salt, 1 lb. of coarse sugar, one handful of common salt, boiled in half a pint of vinegar; pour it over them boiling hot, rubbing it well with the hand. Let them lie a month, turning them daily.

TENANTS should apply to their landlords to assist them in carrying into effect this laudable proposal by building suitable pig-sties for the purpose; and in the month of March the tenants should assist each two of their labourers (working constantly on his premises) in the purchase of a pig, and let that pig shack about his yards and premises until it is fit to put up fatting, and then put it into the sty and feed it upon Pea and Barley meal till it weighs from 20 to 25 stone, during all which time the tenants should keep a strict account of the costs, and weekly detain out of each such poor man's wages the amount thereof and of the feeding, for which the tenants for their outlay, kindness, and trouble should have the full benefit of the manure of these animals. When each hog is killed, it should be equally divided between each two such labourers, who shall thereupon be prepared to pay the amount of the balance for keep, &c., if any, to his master, before he proceeds to take away his share of the hog. This plan would remove all temptation from the labourer, and would have the tendency to keep up the intercourse and good feeling between the farmers and their labourers, which cannot be too much encouraged, and as the hearts of the farmers are always alive to the impulses of humanity, and as they are the friends of poverty, they can but know of the imperious demands upon them, to assist in and save their poor neighbours from distress, and to give them, by instruction and support, a chance for happiness; and Oh! what a pleasing reflection it must be to such men to think that, by a well-directed bounty to such poor objects, they at once become the "friends of the poor."—*From a Pamphlet by J. S. of Norwich.*

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